

U.N. hits row over Namibia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Security Council members began private talks Wednesday in an effort to end a bitter dispute over the proposed U.N. operation to grant Namibia independence from South Africa. Delegates of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China, the council's permanent members which have insisted on severe cuts in the size and cost of the operation, conferred as African and other non-aligned states denounced the economics. First estimates had been as high as \$750 million for 7,500 U.N. peacekeeping troops and a large civilian staff, but Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended in a report Tuesday a force of 4,650 troops and a leaner budget of \$416 million. It would still be the biggest such U.N. enterprise since the world body entered the Congo in the 1960s, an operation that brought the organisation close to paralysis and cost the life of its second secretary general, Dag Hammarskjöld. In Addis Ababa, Secretary-General Idris Omarou of the Organisation of African Unity appealed to the major powers to drop their emphasis on costs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Final Afghan pullout under way

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Wednesday it had begun its final troop withdrawal from Afghanistan but that it was continuing to fight rebel attempts to clamp an economic blockade on Kabul. "The withdrawal process has started," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told a news conference. "I cannot say when it started. But it is under way." Gerasimov also appeared to dispel any doubts that the pullout of the last of the 100,000 or so Soviet troops might not be completed by Feb. 15, the deadline set by last April's U.N.-mediated accord on Afghanistan. "Maybe it will not end exactly on the 15th, it could end on the 14th," he said. "It is not important." Rebels were continuing efforts to stop food and other essentials reaching Kabul and had also resumed shelling of the city, he said. In the latest attack, a soldier was killed when rebels fired at the market place. They also attacked a regional power station in an attempt to cut the capital's electricity supply. "The Afghan government and the Soviet forces are trying to destroy the plans of the opposition to blockade the city," Gerasimov said, both by striking back and by flying in supplies from the Soviet Union.

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Al Hussein pays visit to Cairo after talks with Saudi leader King, Mubarak discuss Arab issues, means for unity, solidarity

CAIRO (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday discussed current Arab issues, means to bolster Arab solidarity and bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The agency said the King, who arrived here from Dhahran after an overnight visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, held a closed meeting with Mubarak at Al Qubba palace before being joined by senior officials from both sides.

The Jordanian side to the talks included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's special advisor Amer Khammash and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem while the

Egyptian side included Prime Minister Atef Sidki, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Youssef Wali, Transport and Telecommunications Minister Suleiman Muta-walli, Information Minister Saw-fat Al Sharif, Foreign Trade Minister Yusef Mustafa, Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz.

Upon arrival here, the King was received by Mubarak and senior officials and the Jordanian

ambassador in Cairo.

In Dhahran, King Hussein held talks with King Fahd on issues of concern to the Arab World at this stage, Petra reported earlier.

The talks came within the framework of the constant consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders. Petra added, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying the King. The Saudi side to the talks included Defence and Civil Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and several other

members of the cabinet.

Shortly after his arrival in Dhahran earlier Tuesday, the King, accompanied by King Fahd, visited the King Abdul Aziz air base in the Eastern province of Saudi Arabia. The two leaders laid the foundation stone for hangars and other facilities at the base, which accommodates advanced warplanes. They also watched a flypast by Saudi air force jets.

King Fahd hosted a dinner in honour of the King and the accompanying delegation Tuesday night. Upon his departure



HM King Hussein



King Fahd



Hosni Mubarak

from Saudi Arabia, the King was seen off by the Saudi monarch and senior Saudi leaders and officials.

The King's talks with King Fahd and President Mubarak were expected to cover the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli

conflict, the situation in peace talks between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war and bilateral relations.

Shortly before the King's arrival here, Mubarak called for bold moves by Israel to close the gap between the Arabs and the Jew-

ish state on peace. He also called for Arab solidarity in a speech marking Egypt's police day.

In the televised speech, Mubarak strongly criticised Israeli violence against Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rifai to lead team to Cairo meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Wednesday announced the Jordanian delegation that will attend the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting which is due to open in Cairo Saturday.

An official statement said that the delegation would be led by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and include the ministers of transport, labour, energy, information, higher education, interior, agriculture, tourism and industry and trade, the president of the Aqaba Region Authority, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Royal Jordanian, Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary-general and the Prime Ministry director.

In a separate statement, the council of ministers, which met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Education Thouqan Hindawi, endorsed the minutes of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Technical Committee on Industrial Cooperation which convened in Cairo Jan. 15.

The committee reached agreement on a number of steps designed to ensure further development in bilateral cooperation in industry-related affairs.

The Jordanian side to the committee meeting was led by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa who Wednesday led Jordan's side in talks with Egyptian officials to prepare for the higher committee meeting.

Tabbaa said the preparatory meetings were dealing with economic, trade, scientific, cultural and informational fields.

The head of the Egyptian side to the meetings, Dr. Maurice Makramallah, said that the high-



Zaid Rifai

er committee meeting would further demonstrate the keenness of the Jordanian and Egyptian leadership to achieve further levels of fruitful cooperation.

Jordan and Egypt, he said, are maintaining close ties that serve as a model for other Arab states.

The preparatory meeting groups representatives of the departments and ministries of industry, trade, transport, electricity, tourism, education and information in Egypt and Jordan.

Stoltenberg arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived here Wednesday on a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he is expected to hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials.

In an arrival statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Stoltenberg said his visit was aimed at familiarising himself with the Jordanian position towards the Middle East conflict, developments in the Palestinian problem and efforts for peace in the region. He said Jordan had an important role to play in the peace process.

Prior to his departure for the Middle East, Stoltenberg met with his counterparts from Sweden and Finland in an apparent effort to coordinate their Middle East peace efforts, the Associated Press reported from



Interior Minister Rajai Dajani and senior officials Wednesday receive Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg upon his arrival here Wednesday on a three-day official visit (Petra photo)

Stockholm.

In his Amman statement, Stoltenberg said the meeting discussed the Middle East and the role that the three Nordic countries could play in advancing Middle East peace efforts.

Stoltenberg was received upon arrival by Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, senior Foreign Ministry

officials, the Norwegian ambassador to Egypt and Norway's honorary consul in Amman.

Stoltenberg will also visit Egypt and Tunisia and meet with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Tunisian capital in the first high-level contact between the two sides.

Army destroys 3 Gaza homes; settlers raid W. Bank village

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army Wednesday demolished a section of the home of a Palestinian activist in the occupied Gaza Strip and sealed part of the houses of two others.

In the occupied West Bank, the army maintained a curfew on the village of Habbah where troops Monday shot dead a Palestinian teenager they said was wanted for anti-Israeli activities in the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Sources said the army ambushed the teenager and five friends as they returned to the village. The Jerusalem Post Wednesday quoted villagers as saying the soldiers wore civilian clothes and arrived in commandeered Arab-owned cars.

Dozens of armed Jewish settlers went on rampage in a West Bank village overnight and smashed windows after their bus was stoned and a passenger was hit by flying glass, Israeli news reports said Wednesday.

Residents of Bidya village said

the settlers from nearby Ariel, about 32 kilometres north of Jerusalem, left behind handwritten leaflets in Arabic that called on Palestinians to stop the violence "before it's too late."

Also Wednesday, an Israeli court convicted four Israeli journalists of membership in the banned Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Yakov and Ronnie Ben-Efrat, Asaf Adiv and Michal Schwartz of the Dorech Hamizot newspaper were sentenced to varying prison terms of up to 30 months. Authorities said the paper down last year, charging it was an arm of the DFLP (see page 4).

The journalists, who said they were tortured during interrogation, said the government was staging a witch-hunt because of the newspaper's coverage of Israeli excesses against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Israel Radio and the daily Yediot Ahronot newspaper said about 100 settlers raided Bidya Tuesday night, after a settler

from Ariel was hit by broken glass when an Israeli bus was stoned.

Yediot said that the settlers arrived in 50 cars, parking them on the main village road leading to Bidya and jamming traffic, and then marched into the village carrying Israeli flags.

Arab villagers hid inside their homes and the settlers smashed windows of houses until soldiers broke up the gathering. Yediot said.

Continuing a crackdown on protesters begun this month, troops early Wednesday destroyed a room in a house in Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp, one day after Palestinians held a strike to protest at the army's demolition policy.

Army radio said the room belonged to Mohammad Ismail Hadr, suspected of throwing stones at soldiers and belonging to a Palestinian popular committee, one of a network of underground committees directing the uprising.

King Hussein sends cable of condolences to Gorbachev

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev expressing sympathy and condolences over Monday's earthquake in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan which killed hundreds of people.

The King also expressed the sympathy and condolences of the Jordanian government and people for the Soviet people, particularly the bereaved families.

Arafat: Jordan-PLO ties, serious, positive

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday described the organisation's relations with Jordan as serious and positive for a long time now.

Addressing a press conference here at the end of a three-day visit to Oman, Arafat said Jordan-PLO ties became clearer following Jordan's decision to sever its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Arafat paid tribute to the Arab countries' support for the PLO and the Palestine National Council's (PNC) decisions and the Palestinian peace initiative. He described the PNC decisions taken in Algiers in November as conforming to resolutions adopted at the Fez Arab summit in 1982.

"There is an overwhelming Arab and international consensus to hold an international conference under U.N. auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO and the U.N. Security Council's five member nations to achieve peace in the Middle East," Arafat said.

He urged the Arab countries to hold the next Arab summit and extend further support for the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their national rights and their drive to determine their future on Palestinian soil.

The ongoing uprising, he said, should continue until the Israeli occupation has been terminated.

Arafat also appealed for quick action by U.S. President George Bush on Arab-Israeli peace, stressing that the key was with the United States and not Israel.

Calling for world-wide backing for his peace initiative, Arafat said: "We hope the new U.S. administration will contribute in pressuring Israel to bow to the voice of peace."

He added: "The present year is important for such an American decision after George Bush has taken over the presidency, and before Washington is taken up with other international issues."

"Peace is not up to Israel but up to the United States. The Israeli decision lies in Washington and not in Tel Aviv," Arafat said in other interviews while in Oman.

"The PLO peace call was 'strategic,'" said Arafat, adding "and the question now is whether the international community will force Israel to respond to peace or not... will the world leave the powder keg in the Middle East aflame because of Israeli intransigence."

He insisted that the peace negotiations take place at an international peace conference with the PLO participating as an equal party.

Arafat called for an immediate pullout of Israeli forces from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While the ceasefire may have stopped the fighting, hostility between the two neighbours still runs deep.

U.N. military observers have said the ceasefire is holding, despite claims of violations by both sides.

Iranian leaders have said they see no point in resuming the talks in Geneva unless the United Nations can guarantee some movement. Iraq, on the other hand, has accused Iran of massing troops along the 1,080-kilometre border.

With the talks stalled, neither side has yet withdrawn troops from the ceasefire line to the pre-war border, as stipulated in the cease-fire terms.

In an apparent reference to divisions within the Iranian hierarchy following Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's unexpected decision July 18 to accept a U.N. Security Council ceasefire resolution, Jassem noted: "We believe Iran does not have the ability to make a decision regarding peace."

"That's why they want to maintain the no-war, no-peace situation."

Jassem said that without a stable ceasefire, "any spark could lead once again to an unsolvable problem."

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Abu Sharif: Israel heightening terror

LONDON (R) — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accused Israel Wednesday of increasing its campaign of terror against Palestinians in the occupied territories but said it would not deter efforts for a peace settlement. Bassam Abu Sharif, a political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, attacked Israel's decision giving troops more freedom to fire plastic bullets. At a news conference he said the move was "the stepping up of the organised terrorist campaign waged by Israeli occupation forces against our people in occupied Palestine. This decision is a very dangerous one because it shows that the Israeli government insists on keeping its expansionist policy, insists on keeping its iron grip on the Palestinian neck." We stress once more that the Israeli government will not drive the Palestinians away from the path of peace."

Taba talks drag on

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli-Egyptian talks on a tiny Red Sea beachfront crept along at snail's pace Wednesday. Despite predictions by both sides of a quick settlement, the negotiations spluttered over disagreements about an agenda for resolving final details of the Taba strip's return to Egyptian control, Israeli officials said.

Soviets to recall forces in Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — The Soviet Union will withdraw one tank division from Hungary by the end of June and an air force regiment by the end of the year, Hungarian Defence Minister Fercsik said Wednesday. He was speaking to Hungarian television and the official news agency MTI after receiving a letter from Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov, MTI reported. A tank-training regiment will be pulled out in the first half of this year and a battalion of assault landing troops by the end of 1989, Fercsik added. A chemical defence battalion and staff at a military school in Szolnok will follow. Western diplomats say the Soviet Union has about 65,000 troops in Hungary, its smallest Warsaw Pact ally.

Greece offers \$1.3m for gunmen

ATHENS (R) — Greece offered a \$1.3 million reward Wednesday for the left-wing guerrillas who shot three state prosecutors this month. After a top-level emergency meeting on terrorism, the socialist government announced an eight-point programme to fight the guerrillas. The anti-terrorist measures were prompted by the murder of supreme court prosecutor Anastasios Varnados Monday by the extreme left-wing "Revolutionary Organisation May First." Two other state prosecutors were shot and seriously wounded by the left-wing guerrilla group "Revolutionary Organisation November 17" in Athens suburbs earlier this month.

Iran hangs 16 drug smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Wednesday hanged 16 traffickers who between them smuggled nearly nine tonnes of heroin, morphine and opium into the country, Tehran Radio reported. The smugglers, executed in Tehran, the nearby town of Varamin and Bakhtaran in the west, were also convicted of robbery, gun-running and rioting in prison, the radio said. Iran, saying one million of its 50-million population are drug users, launched a tough campaign against narcotics this year.

Andreotti urges Lebanese reconciliation

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti urged Lebanon's rival factions to work for peace during talks with socialist leader Walid Jumblatt Wednesday. Andreotti told Jumblatt that "all Lebanese factions should make the maximum effort to normalise life in the country," according to a ministry statement.

Israelis expel 40 from 'security zone'

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli troops and allied militiamen Wednesday expelled 40 Lebanese men, women and children, from Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"Police said the expulsion from the village of Shibaa inside the 'security zone' came after the village's inhabitants refused to cooperate with an Israeli-sponsored 'local administration' handling day-to-day affairs."

A police spokesman said a 130-strong force of Israeli soldiers and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen, backed by 20 armoured personnel carriers, surrounded Shibaa during the night.

The spokesman said the troops raided seven houses and ordered 40 inhabitants to gather in the village square.

The "deportees" including seven women and 25 children, were rushed from their homes in pajamas and nightgowns, according to the spokesman.

They included a man of 81 and a woman of 80 and nine children from the same family, the youngest nine months old.

He said the SLA commander in Shibaa, Alameddin Badawi, informed them of the expulsion decision and asked them not to return.

Most of them blindfolded, the "deportees" were then driven in SLA trucks to a crossing on the northern edge of the "security zone," from Bekaa Valley, the spokesman added.

He said the "deportees" plan to stage a sit-in at a religious centre in the Bekaa town of Bar Elias to protest the expulsion.

The expulsion followed protests by Shibaa's inhabitants rejecting Israel's "local administration."

Amal-Hizbollah truce shattered within hours

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A ceasefire in Lebanon's long-running Amal-Hizbollah militia war was breached within hours Wednesday as negotiators prepared for talks on a political settlement to end the feud once and for all.

A woman and two other civilians were wounded when fighting flared between Amal and Hizbollah across the hilltop villages of Jubah, 'Ain Buswar and 'Ain Qana in South Lebanon, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

Both sides said exchanges of heavy artillery and mortar bombs died down later but tension remained high in the area, scene of some of the bloodiest clashes in recent weeks.

The battle broke out three hours after negotiators in Damascus announced an 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) ceasefire to end 25 days of battles in Beirut and the south in which 142 people have been killed.

The truce was agreed after 15 hours of talks, with Syrian Fore-

ign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati meeting Amal and Hizbollah leaders separately.

Lebanese sources in Damascus said talks would continue Thursday to try to reconcile the militias, competing to control the 1.5 million-strong Shi'ite community.

They said Velayati would return to Damascus Thursday to prepare for a final settlement.

"During our last 15-hour meeting which ended this morning we reached some results," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying after arriving in Tehran.

"If both parties strengthen what has been gained their clashes will come to an end," Velayati said, apparently before hearing of the renewed fighting.

The flare-up in the southern region of Iqlim Al-Tufah caught civilians by surprise. Many had returned to inspect their homes after news of the truce.

A Hizbollah spokesman ac-

cused Amal of opening fire first, but an Amal official in Damascus said Hizbollah started the trouble.

Hizbollah said earlier it would observe the truce but doubted it would hold without a full-scale pact.

"We have to wait for the political results. If there is no political settlement the situation will not improve," a spokesman said.

A top Israeli policymaker said Wednesday his country would face a very serious problem if Hizbollah gained the upper hand in the feud in South Lebanon.

Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator for Lebanon, did not rule out Israeli intervention to prevent Hizbollah from making gains.

Lubrani said Israel had a strong interest in preventing Hizbollah, committed to attacking Israeli forces and their South Lebanon army (SLA) allies, from establishing strongholds near its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.



Afghan government soldiers emplace a howitzer on the Salang Highway north of Kabul.

Cordovez to launch fresh effort for Afghan settlement

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Diego Cordovez, the United Nations mediator on Afghanistan, will make another attempt to forge a political settlement of that country's civil war, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Cordovez helped broker the Geneva accords which call for the withdrawal of the estimated 100,000 Soviet troops fighting the U.S.-backed guerrillas (Mujahideen).

Under the U.N.-brokered accords, 50,000 Soviet troops left by last Aug. 15 and the remaining 50,000 troops are due to be gone by Feb. 15.

Cordovez, who is also the Ecuadorian foreign minister, is expected to arrive in Islamabad Feb. 12 for shuttle diplomacy between Islamabad and Kabul in an attempt to break the deadlock.

The Mujahideen have refused to give any role in the future government to the pro-Moscow Kabul administration or ruling party.

"Cordovez will take up the question of intra-Afghan dialogue" for a broad-based government to take over in Kabul after the Soviets leave, said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who

cannot be identified by name under government rules.

Pakistan- and Iran-based rebel groups are currently engaged in finalising a 460-member consultative council or "shura" that is to elect a government to take office, coinciding with the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. The guerrilla leaders have announced they will name the council Feb. 10.

The spokesman said "the resistance leadership is aware of the pressure caused by the fast-approaching Feb. 15 deadline for the pullout."

Unless a broad-based government is formed, "peace will not return to Afghanistan and three million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan for the last nine years will not be able to return home," the spokesman said.

Soviet troops intervened in December 1979 to shore up the government against the guerrilla insurgency.

Soviets distribute flour

In Kabul, Soviet troops, shouldering what one general calls Moscow's new task of feeding the capital, distributed 275 tons of airlifted flour and heating fuel to more than 5,000 Afghan workers Wednesday.

The distribution, conducted in the presence of Western correspondents, was orderly compared with unruly scenes when Afghan soldiers distributed food and beat back crowds from Soviet personnel carriers earlier this month.

Soviet officials said the supplies will continue as needed after the Feb. 15 pullout date.

But it remained unclear whether Moscow would be able to continue feeding Kabul's population of 2.2 million if the guerrillas should mount an economic blockade aimed at strangling Afghan President Najibullah's government.

The insurgents have severely disrupted road convoys even as Western diplomats report that the state-owned silo holding Kabul's flour reserve is down to less than a day's supply.

"Anything can happen, but I think that (a blockade) will remain really just a threat," declared Major-General Lev Serebrow, deputy head of the Soviet military command in Afghanistan.

This week's emergency airlift followed acute shortages in the city last week, with fights in long lines at bread stores, raising fears of food riots.

Mubarak vows tough crackdown on extremists

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak vowed Wednesday to deal mercilessly with Muslim fundamentalist extremists who resort to violence to impose their ideology on the country.

He described extremist bent on violence as a small minority seeking to "be a state within a state" and advocating ideas that violate Sharia, which they say should be implemented immediately.

"I say with every confidence and clarity that there can be no life for terrorism in Egypt, because its people, by their very nature, heritage and values, reject terrorism and extremism," Mubarak said in a speech at the National Police Academy.

"There will be no leniency towards any deviation from the values of the Egyptian society."

There will be no leniency toward any defiance of the supremacy of the law and the security of citizens."

The warning was couched in some of Mubarak's harshest words since he took office in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated his mentor, President Anwar Sadat.

Mubarak's speech capped a series of nationwide security operations since last August in which more than 500 alleged religious extremists have been detained.

The dragnets followed demon-

strations by extremists and clashes with police in Cairo and some southern provinces. Three policemen and seven civilians, including four identified as extremists, have died in the turmoil.

A crackdown on extremists has been in progress since Sadat was killed at a military parade Oct. 6, 1981, but the campaign has taken on a new intensity under the current interior minister, Zaki Badr. He took office in February 1986 after riots by central security forces recruits in which some fundamentalist militants were said to have participated.

Badr's ministry is responsible for domestic security. Mubarak's speech Wednesday amounted to a vote of confidence in the minister's performance.

Maghreb states announce plan for federation; treaty to be drafted

TUNIS (R) — Ministers from five North African countries announced plans for a Maghreb federation Tuesday and said a draft treaty would be considered at a summit meeting expected within a few weeks.

The summit will be attended by the heads of state of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania, which have been working since last June towards regional economic and political integration similar to the European Economic Community (EEC).

A communique issued at the end of the Tunis meeting said the ministers asked Tunisia to prepare a treaty in readiness for the summit. It should provide a framework for progress towards unity and establish the federation's institutions, it added.

According to the communique, the ministers "studied a draft treaty for the Arab Maghreb federation. This was discussed com-

prehensively in all its aspects, the delegations made observations on it and gave the Tunisian delegation the task of drafting it and submitting it to the next summit."

The summit was originally expected to take place in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh next week but delegates said no date had been set and the venue was uncertain.

Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Besseyeh told the closing session only that it would be held in the capital of one of the five countries.

Delegates said the ministers had not yet agreed on what institutions to give the proposed federation.

Tunisia is pressing for a permanent secretariat. Libya wants rapid political union while Morocco, with support from Algeria, is seeking a looser kind of federation without a secretariat.

Delegates said the draft treaty discussed Tuesday was based on a Moroccan document proposing a council of heads of state and a council of ministers with rotating chairmanships.

The Maghreb unity idea has been under discussion for years but the breakthrough which made practical steps possible was the resumption of relations between Algeria and Morocco last year.

The two countries had been at odds for years over Algerian support for the Polisario Front, which has been waging a guerrilla war against Morocco in the Western Sahara since 1976.

The North Africans believe they must press ahead with economic integration to counter the EEC's plans to create a single market by 1992.

The Europeans have tried to reassure the Maghreb states that 1992 will not isolate them from the European market.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE launches fight against locusts

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sent planes and trucks to spray locusts in its western region, an agriculture ministry official said Wednesday. Shahla Khalifa, a director at the ministry, told Reuters swarms were eating crops at Al-Selaj near the border with Qatar. Khalifa said the present swarms were not large but she expected a bigger invasion in the next two months.

'Oslo may demand water back from Israel'

OSLO (R) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said in an interview published Wednesday that Oslo might demand the return of 20 tonnes of heavy water sold to Israel in a secret deal in 1959. Norway demanded the right to inspect the water, which can be used to make atomic bombs, after media reports in 1986 said that Israel had been making such weapons. Israel refuses to confirm or deny that it possesses nuclear weapons. Asked whether Oslo might simply demand the return of the water if Israel refuses to allow inspection, Stoltenberg said: "Norway wants to negotiate with Israel... (but) such a demand is possible."

Denmark drops Tripoli appointment

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, apparently bowing to public criticism Tuesday, reversed an earlier decision to upgrade Denmark's diplomatic representation in Libya. Ellemann-Jensen said after a meeting of parliament's foreign affairs committee that his ministry was dropping a plan to send a new ambassador to the Tripoli embassy, now headed by a charge d'affaires, Denmark's Public TV said. On Monday he defended the appointment, saying it was not meant to signal a change in policy towards Libya.

Lawyers questioned over Cairo shooting

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian prosecutors questioned 12 lawyers Tuesday over the shooting of a passer-by outside the bar association in Cairo during a disturbance in the building, security sources said. Riot police guarded the building Tuesday after storming it late Monday to arrest dissident bar association members who had occupied it earlier in the day. The lawyers, who were demanding the sacking of association Chairman Ahmad Khawaga, denied shooting the passer-by who was hit in the arm and chest. Police said they found two pistols, empty cartridges and cans of petrol in the building. No one has been charged.

Court rejects Hamadi appeal

KARLSRUHE, West Germany (R) — The West German supreme court Tuesday rejected an appeal by Abbas Ali Hamadi, against a 13-year prison term for his role in kidnapping two West German businessmen in Beirut in 1987. Lebanese-born Hamadi was found guilty in April 1988 of helping to take Rudolf Cordes, and Alfred Schmidt hostage in January 1987. The kidnappers, wanted to force the Bonn government to release Abbas' brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadi, who was arrested in Frankfurt that month. Both hostages were subsequently freed. Mohammad Hamadi is currently on trial in Frankfurt for the June 1985 hijacking of a U.S. airliner.

Fadlallah says he wants to free hostages

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The spiritual leader of a pro-Iranian group said in letters released Tuesday that he was striving to secure the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

In letters to two U.S. groups fighting for the hostages' freedom, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the Hizbollah ("Party of God"), denied involvement in any hostage-taking and said his efforts were so far stumped "at the high levels of government outside Lebanon."

Sheikh Fadlallah's letters were released by the Committee to Free Terry Anderson, an Associated Press reporter held for nearly four years, and the U.S. Committee to Protect Journalists.

In his letter to the journalists' committee, he said: "The ordeal the people of Lebanon are living through makes us all sensitive to the tragedies that befall all the oppressed people of the earth and the daily ordeal the hostages are living through."

"We will never stop striving to do anything that might bring a happy end to their captivity," Bill Foley, who heads the Committee to Free Terry Anderson, said the Shi'ite leader made a special mention of the American journalist, saying:

"I work laboriously to ensure their (the hostages) release and

especially Terry Anderson, who I know personally by virtue of my status as a spiritual leader in the Muslim World."

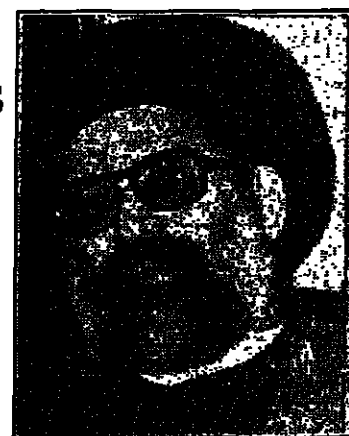
Anderson, taken hostage March 16, 1985, interviewed Fadlallah the day before he was kidnapped, Foley said.

On Tuesday, the wives of three American professors at Beirut University College, seized two years ago, appealed for the release of their husbands as they began their third year in captivity. The three men are Allan Steen, Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner.

The responses Fadlallah gave to the letter-writers were similar in tone and content, but were not identical. "We are always sorry for the continuous human suffering which we have tried to solve and continue to try to solve to bring the situation to a happy ending," Fadlallah wrote Mrs. Steen.

To Anne Nelson, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Fadlallah said, "I have tried several times to intervene to find a solution of their situation but my efforts failed because they were complicated by factors at the international level."

Mrs. Say, who has written Fadlallah in the past but never before received a response, said she interpreted the letter as meaning



Sheikh Hussein Fadlallah

the Shi'ite leader might be willing to be a "point of contact" in any negotiations to free the hostages. She pointed out that Fadlallah knows Anderson.

The letters, delivered through an intermediary, were received last week.

A State Department official said that Fadlallah has made many pronouncements about the hostages, some of which have appeared to be contradictory. Moreover, he said that officials are "not quite sure how much influence (Fadlallah) has personally" over the kidnappers.

The United States has a policy of not negotiating with those holding hostages, although officials will talk about the welfare of the captives.

"There is no direct contact between us and the Iranians and between us and Fadlallah," the official said.

PLO to seek U.S. clarification

ABU DHABI (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will ask the United States to clarify what rights it thinks the Palestinian people are entitled to, a PLO leader said.

"We will ask the Americans to define more clearly their perspective of the legitimate Palestinian rights," PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas said during a lecture in Abu Dhabi Tuesday.

"We will also ask for some balance in their position" on the rights of Israel and of Palestinians, he said. Talks begun last month between the PLO and the United States would resume in Tunis in a few days, he added.

More than 70 countries, not including the United States, have

recognised the Palestinian state declared in November by the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Washington agreed to open talks with the PLO after its Chairman Yasser Arafat said in November that he renounced terrorism and recognised Israel.

Abbas said PLO delegates at the talks would ask Washington to urge Israel to end repression in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Abbas said the uprising was legitimate and therefore not affected by Arafat's pledge to renounce terrorism. He said the uprising would continue even while an international Middle East conference, which the PLO hopes to arrange, was in session.

"There will be no compromise on the intifada... an international conference is not a solution in itself... it could go on for two or three years," he said.

In Tunis, the PLO said Wednesday talks with the United States would resume before the end of the month but the U.S. embassy in Tunis said it had not contacted the PLO on this.

A member of the four-man PLO team which took part in the first round of talks Dec. 16 told Reuters the PLO and the United States had been in touch recently and a meeting would probably take place "within a week."

A U.S. embassy spokesman said he had checked with Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, who said no meeting was planned.

Iraq moves to liberalise society

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is to allow greater public expression as part of post-war political reforms and will scrap security laws limiting individual freedom, according to newspapers.

They said Interior Minister Saeed Mohammad Abdul Wahab had ordered a review of internal security organs and laws with the aim of abolishing measures which were a burden on the individual and curbed his liberty.

He said the country's laws should be in harmony with its future aspirations now that a

ceasefire had been declared in the eight-year war with Iran.

"Respecting the citizen and extending help to him and respecting his freedom are the basic work of internal security officials," the minister was quoted as having told a meeting of senior police officers.

The papers also published an order for the investigation and trial of six policemen accused of torturing a suspect to death, the first time such a case had been reported.

They said the suspect was

arrested with two others after a member of the ruling Baath Party was assassinated in the town of Najaf southwest of Baghdad. No dates were given.

The papers said all three were tortured but later found to be innocent. The real assassin, "who harboured hatred for the party and the revolution," were arrested and would go on trial.

The Iraqi News Agency said Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam had been told to let people publish complaints about government officials who broke the law.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

05:09 Fajr
06:29 (Sunrise) Duha
11:48 Dhuhur
14:43 'Asr
17:07 Maghreb
18:27 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terzanta Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 823605.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
16:00 Children programmes
16:15 Local programme
16:30 Programme on Jordan
16:50 News for the deaf
17:00 Local programme
17:15 "Alph"
17:30 Health programme
17:40 Programme review
18:00 News in Arabic
18:15 Local programme
18:30 Programme review
18:45 Arabic film
19:00 News summary in Arabic
19:15 Film (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 La Baby Sitter
18:30 A variety programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 La vie en Panné
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Killers"

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds appear on different altitudes and there will be a chance for scattered rain in the northern and central regions. A slight drop in temperature is expected in the afternoon. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 2 / 13
Aqaba 10 / 20
Deserts -1 / 15
Jordan Valley 9 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fayez Jalouqa 624207
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Fakher Bahissi 625778
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nakouk pharmacy 625672
Al Salton pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeizani pharmacy 637660

DRBD:
Dr. Hameed 'Anaqreh (-)
Al Sheraa pharmacy 983238
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Al Tarifi (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 624216
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62209093
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 63639091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 658800

Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 8910715
Amman Municipality 60240450
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381372
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alchik Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeizani 6641714
Sunceini Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843945
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672729
The Islamic, Abdali 66512737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511226
Army, Marka 8910715
Queen Alia Hospital 60240450
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
The Sina Hospital (09)983732
DRBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ru Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 450 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammur) 300 / 250
Beans 700 / 600
Broad beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 150 / 100
Carrots 260 / 200
Cauliflower 240 / 200
Cucumbers 400 / 380
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 150 / 100
Garlic 280 / 200
Grapefruit 170 / 120
Lemon 200 / 150

Lettuce (per one) 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 280 / 200
Marrow (small) 400 / 340
Orange (French) 350 / 300
Orange (Shamouni) 400 / 340
Orange (local) 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 230 / 160
Pepper (hot) 460 / 400
Pepper (sweet) 380 / 300
Potato 250 / 200
Spinach 150 / 100
Mandarin 250 / 200
Tomatoes 170 / 120

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:30 Children programme
18:45 Religious programme
19:00 Friday's prayer
19:15 Religious programme
19:30 Religious seminar
19:45 The world around us
20:00 Sports programme
20:30 Message from Ouzun

17:10 Arabic series
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:30 Local programme
19:00 Local programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:00 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:15 Children cartoons
17:30 French feature film
18:00 News in French
18:15 Documentary
18:30 News in Arabic
18:45 Charles in Charge
21:10 This Air
22:00 News in English
23:10 Falcon Crest
Three's Company

PRAYER TIMES

05:08 Fajr
06:28 (Sunrise) Duha
11:48 Dhuhur
14:43 'Asr
17:08 Maghreb
18:28 'Isha

Regent congratulates India and Australia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, the Regent, has sent a cable of congratulations to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman on India's Republic Day.

In his cable the Regent wished the Indian president good health and the Indian people progress and prosperity.

Prince Abdullah also sent a similar cable to Australian Governor General Ninian Martin Stephen on Australia's National Day.

Palestinians consider open education system in occupied territories

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An open education system is under strong consideration by Palestinian educationalists in the occupied territories to counter the repeated closure of higher education institutions by the Israeli occupation authorities, Bir Zeit University President Hanna Nasser said Tuesday.

Dr. Nasser, who heads the Bir Zeit Liaison Office in Amman after being expelled by the occupation authorities in 1974, said an additional 15 to 20 per cent of the 17,000 university students, who are deprived of classrooms because of the closures, will benefit from the open system.

All six universities in the occupied territories have been totally closed since the Palestinian intifada in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip began 14 months ago. During this time students have received "some education" through lessons given in homes or at coffeehouses and through correspondence, Nasser said.

"Some students have been able to complete the credits necessary and graduate," he said, adding that 30 per cent of those students who were supposed to graduate last year actually did.

"However, this is only a partial solution. We are searching for alternative and modified ways and means to handle the problem and to offer education to more students... The open university system is now being tried," he said.

Such a system would help the students "since they do not have to come to classes, rather the education comes to them."

According to Nasser, 35 to 40 per cent of the students have taken advantage of the teaching methods presently being implemented in the occupied territories. He said that this number will rise to 55-60 per cent once the open university system is implemented. The Al Quds Open University in Jordan will be providing models and programmes "to achieve some kind of education for Palestinians in occupied territories who have been denied access to education for the past two years."

Previously universities in the occupied territories have been closed for a period of one week to four months. "This is the first time that all universities have been closed at the same time for such an extended period of time," Nasser said.

Despite the prevailing situation in the occupied territories and the pending risk for the education of a nation, Nasser asserted that the students' morale is high.

"The best indication of the students' morale is that they make up the backbone of the intifada. I believe that the students have faced the challenge of liberation and education beautifully," he said.

Nasser said he believes the intifada is the "best thing that has happened for education over the past 14 years." He pointed to the solidarity and the cooperation of students, teachers and faculty members, citing the committees formed by the older students to help the younger generation's education as one such example.

Although some educationalists claim that one or two years of lost education is a setback in a general sense, Nasser said the students consider this as a minor sacrifice for their independence.

He said that efforts are being made at the United Nations and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to pressure Israel into reopening Palestinian educational institutions in the occupied territories.

"We must face the Israeli challenge, which aims to hinder the education of the Palestinian people, in an insistent manner," said Nasser.

He pointed out that the Israeli authorities claim that the closure of educational institutions is justified for allegedly "being centres of incitement." But, the truth of the matter is that the Israelis "are afraid of the education of Palestinians and they realise that education is the backbone of liberation."

Supporting his assertion, Nasser said if the Israeli authorities were only against the amassing of students and not against the education, "then they would not crack down on the few students who congregate in homes or shops to take lessons."

Hamdan, Taiwan university director discuss cooperation

IRBID (J.T.) — Dr. Rolet Chih-Shih Chen, president of the National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday called at Yarmouk University and met with its president Mohammad Hamdan to discuss cooperation in the fields of cultural and higher education.

A spokesman for the university said that Chen discussed with Hamdan prospects of Yarmouk University providing Chengchi University with Arabic language material and textbooks for teaching purposes and the possibility of dispatching Taiwanese students to study Arabic at Yarmouk University's language centre.

He said that the two sides discussed a possible agreement to pave the way for an exchange of visits by teachers and students from the two universities and for organising conferences.

Dr. Hamdan briefed the visitor on the university's development and current programmes. Later the visitor was accompanied on a tour of the campus.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of photographic works by Wols (Otto Wolfgang Schulz) at the Goethe Institute.
- * The Jordanian plastic art season which includes a general exhibition of works by Jordanian artists at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.
- * An art exhibition by artist Misa Erder at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

FILM

- * A feature film entitled "Twelve Angry Men" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

FOLKLORE

- * A performance of Armenian folk songs by Egypt's Armenian General Benevolent Union Choir at the Philadelphia Theatre — 8:00 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday tours the new premises of the Institute of Child Health in Sweileh (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates new premises of child health institute in Sweileh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated the new premises of the Institute of Child Health and Development, located in eastern Sweileh, north of Amman, and toured its different sections.

The institute, a joint Swedish-Jordanian project, seeks to further national efforts to develop new and adequate methods and techniques in preventive health care for pregnant mothers and preschool children.

The project is initially funded by Sweden, through Radda Barnen, the Swedish save the children organisation, but the administrative and financial responsibility will gradually be taken over by the Nour Al Hussein Foundation

(NHF). Radda Barnen's Jordanian counterpart in the implementation of the project.

NHF officials said that the institute aims at improving practices in growth monitoring, diagnostics and treatment, conducting primary field research among children, training health workers and producing informational material to promote the awareness among parents and teachers of early symptoms of childhood diseases or abnormalities.

The institute, which started to render services to residents in Sweileh in rented premises in 1986 consists of the following sections: the model Mother and Child Health (MCH) clinic for pregnant mothers and children, a

child development unit to assess children's cases, an epidemiological unit for collecting data on mothers and children, and an administration unit.

During the ceremony the Queen was briefed on the functions and programmes of the different sections.

According to officials a total of 1,400 children and 350 pregnant mothers benefited from the institute since its establishment.

Radda Barnen, one of Sweden's largest voluntary agencies, was founded in 1919 and is considered as a popular movement with 200,000 supporters, including members, sponsors, and donors.

Radda Barnen's 70,000 members are represented all over Sweden and are organised in local societies which work within limited geographical areas and are concerned with fund raising and opinion building activities. All work is carried out by volunteers.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW JORDANIAN ENVOY: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing the appointment of Dr. Naser Al Bataineh as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Somalia. (Petra)

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday accepting the resignation of Amer Khammash from the membership of the Upper House of Parliament effective Dec. 19, 1988. (Petra)

ENVOY TO NEPAL, THAILAND: The Cabinet Wednesday approved the appointment of Dr. Suleiman Dajani as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Thailand and Nepal. (Petra)

ARMENIAN FOLK SONGS: Egypt's Armenian General Benevolent Union choir will give a performance of Armenian folk songs Thursday at the Philadelphia Theatre in Amman. The proceeds of the performance will benefit the survivors of the Dec. 7 earthquake in the Soviet Republic of Armenia. (J.T.)

43 FIRMS BLACKLISTED: Minister of Finance and Customs Dr. Hanna Odeh Wednesday issued an order blacklisting 43 foreign companies for violating the Arab boycott law. He also issued another law lifting the embargo imposed on 18 foreign companies for abiding by the said law. (Petra)

CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH ITALY: Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad Wednesday discussed with Italian Ambassador in Amman Francesco de Curten cultural cooperation, particularly the signing of the cultural programme for the next three years between the two countries. (Petra)

HILAYEL MEETS PREACHERS: The Secretary General of the Awaqat and Islamic Affairs Ministry, Dr. Ahmad Hilayel, Wednesday met with preachers working at the mosques of Salt, Zarqa, and Madaba. He discussed different themes for sermons. (Petra)

JUST GETS NEW STADIUM: Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) has received the newly-established sports stadium which cost JD 300,000. (Petra)

CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE: Twenty eight teachers Wednesday participated in a civil defence course at the Shuna Secondary School for Girls. (Petra)

Ministry distributes large amounts of dried milk

AMMAN (J.T.) — In keeping with the government pledge to ensure sufficient amounts of consumer commodities in the local markets, the Ministry of Supply this week distributed large amounts of dried milk to stores in Amman and other towns in the Kingdom.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab daily newspaper said that the ministry plans to make available 40,000 cartons or 480,000 kilograms of dried milk in the local markets on a monthly basis to overcome any shortages of this essential commodity.

The paper said that the move came in the wake of a period that witnessed the absence of milk from store shelves.

The paper said Jordanian consumers can now purchase sufficient amounts of milk at all stores.

The Ministry of Supply has for the past years supplied the local market with the "Halibona" brand of dried milk in a bid to stabilise milk prices and ensure sufficient quantities for the consumers.

Consequently, the RMS went into the second stage "which I would like to call: the stage of horizontal expansion," Ajlouni said.

Concurrently with this stage, the armed forces were expanded and developed. This factor led to a rapid increase in the number of dependants to about quarter of a million in 1964 and over half a million by 1976.

As a result of this increasing number of dependants, the RMS developed specialty services, thus starting an era of "vertical expansion." This was heralded by the opening of King Hussein Medical Centre in 1973.

The army represented a defined age group with defined health problems, while the larger group of dependants represented a wider spectrum of health problems. "So, specialty services (all sub-specialties in medicine and surgery) were developed in this centre. For this purpose, sophisticated technology was introduced," Ajlouni said.

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Jordan begins work on mobile camp to assist natural disaster victims

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development is going ahead with plans to carry out a project designed to provide relief assistance to victims of natural disasters through a mobile camp that can be erected speedily in affected areas.

Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Tougan chaired a meeting at his ministry Wednesday to discuss the integrated plan and the required procedures and measures to ensure the success of the project.

Tougan emphasised the importance of intensifying the efforts to all concerned parties to create conditions for the execution of the plan and set up a fully-equipped camp as soon as possible.

The minister urged all those concerned with the project to embark on providing the required equipment, the relief supplies and other materials.

The ministry will shortly carry

out an experiment to test the project's effectiveness in dealing with emergency situations, such as floods and snow storms when assistance will be needed for the victims.

The minister said the projected emergency camp will supply food, clothing and shelter as well as medical supplies for those affected by natural disasters.

A ministry statement said later that the meeting resulted in the formation of a number of specialised committees to ensure the collection of supplies required for the camp.

The meeting was attended by directors of the Civil Defence, and Meteorology Departments,

the National Aid Fund, the Jordan Social Work Institute, members of the executive committee preparing for the project and officials from the ministries of Social Development and Supply, the Civil Defence Department and the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

Last month, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan announced the establishment of a specialised organisation to follow up efforts to extend support for victims of natural disasters in Arab and Islamic countries.

In a speech to a gathering on International Voluntary Day to honour volunteers who worked in Sudan, the Crown Prince said it was the right time for the concerned parties in Jordan to study the context of the new initiative and encourage voluntary work in tackling natural disasters anywhere.

Haj Hassan, Jabr arrive in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Two Jordanian ministers arrived in Cairo Wednesday to take part in a meeting by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, due to open in Cairo Saturday, and to hold separate talks with their Egyptian counterparts.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who arrived at the head of a delegation, said his talks with Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan will focus on means of promoting Jordanian-Egyptian transport operations.

He expressed hope that the talks will boost the two countries' in transport and in particular air transport.

Haj Hassan is accompanied by Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Mahmoud Balqez.

Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr, who also arrived in the Egyptian capital Wednesday, said he will discuss with his Egyptian counterpart Yousef Wali cooperation in agricultural fields prior to the joint committee meetings.

Jabr said that the talks will cover the holding company's projects, which include raising livestock, animal feed, seeds and fisheries.

The two ministers are also expected to tackle cooperation in



Khaled Al Haj Hassan

providing training in agriculture-related fields and combating pests and desert locusts.

National Medical Services — aspirin to heart transplant in a few decades

By Suhair M. Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Medical Services (RMS) and its King Hussein Medical Centre have become household names in Jordan, but little light is shed on its remarkable evolution, growing from a small unit catering to a few hundred soldiers to over half a million servicemen and their dependants today.

A casual visit to King Hussein Medical Centre testifies to the qualitative growth that the RMS has witnessed, as evident in the wide range of services that it offers, from regular dental check-ups to heart-transplants.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Major-General Naef Ajlouni, head of the RMS, discussed the past achievements, present plans and future projects of the service.

"Going back to its formation in the late '40s the RMS was established as a small unit with the objective of providing medical support for the army. The armed forces were then a small organisation, manned mainly by non-Jordanian doctors," Ajlouni said.

In the early '60s, the mission of the RMS changed and the scope of work increased. "This was the result of the implementation of the military health insurance schemes," he explained.

"The RMS took the responsibility to provide health-care not only for the army, but for all dependants (families of soldiers and officers)."

Consequently, the RMS went into the second stage "which I would like to call: the stage of horizontal expansion," Ajlouni said.

Concurrently with this stage, the armed forces were expanded and developed. This factor led to a rapid increase in the number of dependants to about quarter of a million in 1964 and over half a million by 1976.

As a result of this increasing number of dependants, the RMS developed specialty services, thus starting an era of "vertical expansion." This was heralded by the opening of King Hussein Medical Centre in 1973.

The army represented a defined age group with defined health problems, while the larger group of dependants represented a wider spectrum of health problems. "So, specialty services (all sub-specialties in medicine and surgery) were developed in this centre. For this purpose, sophisticated technology was introduced," Ajlouni said.

Ambitious and extensive training programmes for physicians, nurses and other health professionals characterised this phase, he added.

By the end of this stage, and in the mid '80s, the RMS has become not only a system for medical support of the armed forces, but also a major health provider in the country. In 1985 its dependants grew to about one million while it managed eight hospitals, three of which were highly specialised and grouped in King Hussein Medical Centre.

"This centre provided specialised care for all dependants and for non-dependant civilians in Jordan whenever their health problems could not be diagnosed or managed in other health sectors," Ajlouni said.

The RMS also became the pace-maker regarding training of health professionals and raising the standard of health care. The RMS also contributed to medical education for both the pre-graduate and post-graduate students.

Being a major health provider, the RMS also started to become involved in health planning for the country and has a representative in the Supreme Health Council.

"By the late '80s it was obvious that the mission of the RMS needed to be carefully reviewed," Ajlouni said.

There were two options to consider:

— The first was whether the RMS should go back to its primary role, as the army's health provider.

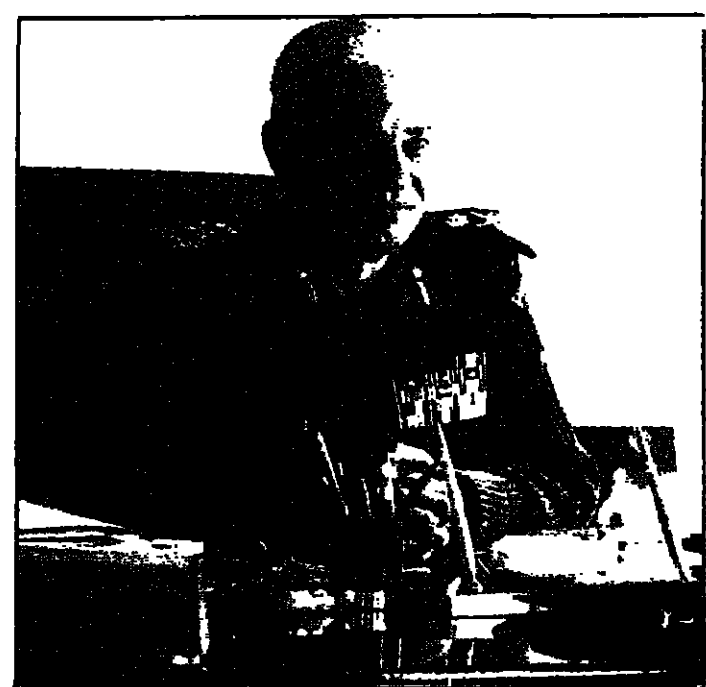
— The second alternative was for the RMS to develop into a national health service.

The factors that were affecting the decision to be taken were mainly economical.

Considering the role of the RMS in relation to other health centres in the country, several factors had to be taken into account. The first was the problem of coordination. Health care providers — the RMS, the Health Ministry, University of Jordan and government hospitals — had similar objectives but could not synchronise their planning and management efforts.

Second was the cost of health care which has been escalating worldwide, and which became a major factor to be considered in health planning. Duplication of services did not help in developing the correct financing of the system. "So, theoretically, the different systems put together were not efficient in using the limited resources," Ajlouni pointed out.

The third major concern was the different standards of



Maj.-Gen. Naef Ajlouni

health care provided by different hospitals. "So, the whole setup was ready for a major change. Planning efforts started to move in the direction of a better definition of roles among the different sectors and an equitable system of allocating resources," Ajlouni said.

"Then came His Majesty's idea, larger than all the different plans and arrangements that were simmering within all the sectors the idea was to change the health system in Jordan and put it, for the first time, on the right track. That of course was the establishment of the National Medical Institution (NMI)," Ajlouni pointed out.

NMI's mission is "to plan, develop and implement a comprehensive system of secondary and specialised health care for ambulant and inpatient populations in hospital-based settings which provide the environment for offering an optimum standard of professional service, equally accessible to all beneficiaries; developing qualified health care providers; and implementing contemporary management strategies to maximise benefits from allocated resources."

The decision to form the institution, automatically defined the roles of different health sectors. The Health Ministry is now responsible for primary health care and thus, has the golden opportunity to plan, develop and implement a system of preventive health measures, community health and general practice, Ajlouni said.

The Jordan University Hos-

pital is now part of the NMI and the role of the university's schools of medicine is now limited to undergraduate training.

The private sector, however, has not been influenced by this change. "I am sure that in the future, there will be opportunities to achieve some sort of coordination between the NMI and the private sector, which will be beneficial for both," Ajlouni contended.

The RMS went under a major change, its role was redefined as a system for providing medical support for the troops. "Now, it only caters for the uniformed personnel in the army. In addition to that, the RMS is now responsible for the physical fitness of the army, to make sure it is 'fit to fight,'" Ajlouni said.

This new mission also involves prevention of disease and disability which would include a new development of occupational health and medical support for combat units, emphasising modern methods of aid and evacuation.

"This is the beginning of the fourth stage of the development of the RMS," Ajlouni said. "Its size is much smaller and its objectives sharply defined, but nevertheless, its mission is vital for the armed forces."

"However, the RMS is not going to expand, except in depth, where it plans to fully develop its objectives, through careful utilisation of resources. In addition to extensive military training, to be able to create professional army doctors," Ajlouni said. Adding: "The RMS is proud of its new role and is determined to fulfil it."

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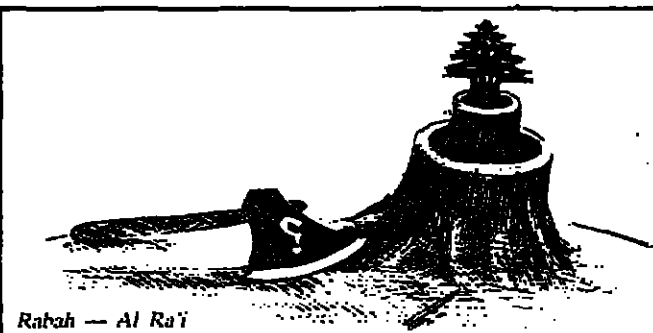
King rallies brothers

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's working visits to Saudi Arabia and Egypt to exchange views with King Fahd and President Hosni Mubarak comes at a particularly critical time in terms of regional and international affairs. With the Arab-Israeli conflict reaching a new crossroads in the wake of recent bold Arab initiatives towards making the convocation of an international peace conference more probable than ever; and on the occasion of the beginning of a new and fresh American administration in the White House which may promise a new perspective and guidelines on the conceptual framework for the resolution of the Palestinian case, there is no better time than now to accelerate the momentum of Arab contacts at the highest levels.

This is also especially true because the front is witnessing many positive developments which have brought the status of inter-Arab relations to a new juncture which envisages, inter alia, the restoration of Egypt to the Arab fold and the normalisation of relations between Syria on one hand and Egypt and Iraq on the other. This is not to mention the important new beginning for the overall settlement of the Lebanese conflict by the Arab League committee of six Arab foreign ministers.

All such positive developments provide a sound environment, first to hold an Arab summit conference in order to put flesh on the bones which have been painstakingly constructed between the various parts of the Arab World; and second to engage the Bush administration and the European Community in an energetic dialogue with a view to elevate the excellence of the relations between the Arab World and the Western world.

Seen against this backdrop, King Hussein's voyage for peace and harmony to Saudi Arabia and Egypt is but part and parcel of the one continuous mission that he has embarked upon ever since he had ascended to the throne in 1952 to make the Arab World a more harmonious and action oriented group of countries that share a common destiny. There is no better way to crown King Hussein's relentless efforts in this direction than by convening an Arab summit as soon as possible to deal with the new development on the Arab and international levels. It is high time that the Arab World speaks with one voice at least on fundamental issues confronting the Arab peoples. The year 1989 is a good year to materialise this elusive Arab dream.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia which is followed by one to Cairo is part of an ongoing process for bolstering inter-Arab cooperation, said Al Rai's Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that the King is following on the success of the Amman Arab summit when the Arab leaders reached consensus and agreement; and is trying to rally the Arabs and bolster their ranks in the face of the common challenges posed to the Arab World. The current efforts to convene an Arab summit meeting in Riyadh are part of the monarch's plan to pave the way for Egypt's full return to the Arab fold so that it can assume its leading role within the Arab League and help the Arab people attain their national objectives, the paper added. It said that the sooner the Arab summit is convened the better, because of the urgent need to rally the Arab endeavours behind the Palestinian drive to attain a lasting settlement for the Palestine problem. Any unity among the Arabs and any collective action at this stage, the paper concluded, will no doubt extend backing for the ongoing Palestinian struggle for freedom.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily expresses the view that a great deal depends on Washington's stand and its serious efforts, if peace is to be attained in the Middle East. Abdul Rahim Omar notes that the Palestinian uprising has brought about a real change in the world's attitude towards the Palestinians and caused the American public opinion to focus attention on the Arab-Israeli question. The United States should realise that Israel's influence in Congress has been creating obstacles for the successive administrations to initiate serious and meaningful efforts for a Middle East peace, and had on several occasions deprived the U.S. treasury of funds that would have come from the sale of U.S. arms to the Arab countries, the writer points out. Furthermore Washington's blind support for Israel has, on more than one occasion, embarrassed Washington before the whole world and rendered U.S. policies void of all credibility, the writer adds. The writer says that the Bush administration has to face the Middle East situation which requires settlement through an international conference to implement U.N. resolutions, and has to take into account the views of European countries which are America's allies, and which are demanding a just and lasting solution. Al Dostour daily commented on the King's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, describing the move as another stage in the monarch's continuous endeavours to strengthen solidarity among Arab countries. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have played a central role in ending inter-Arab differences, and they continue to serve as a bridge for understanding among Arab capitals, the paper noted. It said that the developments in the Middle East and the ongoing efforts to end the Palestine problem are motivating the King's present efforts. To increase the effectiveness of these efforts, the paper said, King Hussein is aiming at bringing in Egypt and involving Cairo in matters of destiny for the Arab Nation.

French delight in Benazir's triumph

Benazirmania has gripped the popular media in France, where part of her family spent eventful years in exile. Nothing and no-one thought to be remotely associated with the new prime minister of Pakistan is safe from media hawks out for a story.

By Safar Masud

PARIS — Last week she made the cover of *Jeune Afrique*, the largest selling weekly in francophone Africa edited and published in Paris. Before that she has been on the centrefold of that epitome of colourful pictorial journalism in France, *Paris Match*.

The very chic and the very bourgeois *Madame Figaro* already has run a hasty piece on her and is angling for a larger, lavishly illustrated exclusive interview. So is the feminist weekly *Marie Claire* which is published in all the major European languages plus Japanese.

A syndicate representing over 20 regional French dailies with a combined readership of over three million would want to interview her and many of France's seven TV networks are clawing over each other's shoulders to get to her first.

Her severest critics concede Pakistan's young Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has an electrifying personality — competing for media attention with the Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

In France where aesthetics is religion, her charm has broken all the barriers and Benazirmania has gripped the media without distinction of Left or Right. While the glitzy world's organ *The Best* included her among the 10 most elegant women of the year, the leftist newsweekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* has published a sentimental account of Benazir's personal life plus a substantive exclusive interview.

The conservative *Le Figaro* designated her the *Woman of the Year* on a vote from 23 luminaries that included France's premier literary TV wizard Bernard Pivot and the year's Goncourt (France's highest book prize) winner Erik Orsena. The TV

channel Antenne-2 named her one of the three most important personalities of the year with Yasser Arafat and Mikhail Gorbachev.

France's fascination with Benazir Bhutto is phenomenal but spontaneous. Little credit for it can be given to Pakistan's archaic, bureaucracy-ridden propaganda machine that Benazir inherited from the military rulers. Nevertheless this fascination can be explained in terms of the media's own redoubtable logic which causes the rise of many a glittering star in its skies each year while others are shot out of those lofty heights.

While the legacy of the Bhutto name has done a great deal, Benazir's youthfulness and good looks have offered the French, as of course other Westerners, a glaring contrast with the dull and sombre Pakistan of only a month ago.

Former President Zia Ul Haq, killed in an air crash in August 1988, had bit by bit created in 11 years an image of Pakistan that he himself personified: austere, martial, fundamentalist, isolationist, misogynist. Any elected

leader signifying a departure from those traits, invariably shunned by the West, is bound to become a darling of the media here. Benazir has charm for extras. "The French are unabashedly frank about their helplessness before the charms of a beautiful lady," said one French editor.

There are exaggerations, of course, such as when Benazir was described in some recent articles as the heroine of a Greek tragedy. But all this is done in a good spirit and in the sentimental vein of *journalisme a la française*.

Madame Figaro, for example, thanks Heavens that Benazir Bhutto has come to power in a country where "amputations and death by stoning were everyday currency." Kenizé Mourad, author of last summer's bestselling tearjerker, *Letter From A Dead Princess*, finds herself being pursued as the greatest authority on Benazir.

In newspaper pieces and TV scripts, she deftly sprinkles her account with personal anecdotes about Benazir. Her contributions are widespread and varied — from the leftist *Obs* to the conservative *Le Figaro*. As this goes

to press, Miss Mourad has already compared her subject to such mythical or historical figures as Antigone, Zainab, Chand Bibi and Hazrat Mahal.

Mourad is not the only one sticking anachronistic labels to the modern, democratic phenomenon that is Benazir Bhutto. Contrary to their popular image as fire-belching Robespierresque revolutionaries, the French can be nostalgic about their monarchical past. The newsweekly *Le Point* reported Benazir's election victory under the title *The Royal Path of Benazir*.

For Pakistan's communication whiz-kids (such as Javed Jabbar, the dynamic media expert who is the country's new information minister), the harvest of Benazir's popularity in France is ready to be reaped before the superlatives about her charm gradually and logically cede room to questions about the gruesome problems facing Pakistan — the budget deficit and the lopsided balance of payments, a monumental energy crisis, a per capita income of \$350 a year against a galloping birth rate and an illiteracy rate of over 75 per

cent for a nation of over 100 million.

Although Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan crisis has received unflinching support from successive French governments, whether of the left or the right, Paris has viewed Islamabad disapprovingly and suspiciously over the question of its nuclear programme and its human rights record.

The return of civilian rule has raised hopes that Pakistan's odious, secret style of government would be replaced by a brisk, democratically transparent one under Benazir. But those hopes will have to be justified.

The year 1989 offers at least three major opportunities to Pakistan for cashing in on this unprecedented wave of media sympathy: the impending visit to Pakistan by President François Mitterrand for which a date has yet to be announced, Benazir's forthcoming visit to Paris on the occasion of the French Revolution's bicentennial celebrations and the publication of the French edition of her book, *The Daughter of the East* in March. — Academic File.

Bush inaugural speech sends signal to Iran

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Bush made only fleeting reference to American hostages in his inaugural address but experts say the language and the tone were just the right signal for the new administration to send to Iran.

No one was predicting a quick thaw in relations between the two countries or an early release of nine Americans believed held by Iranian radicals in Lebanon.

But the analysts were optimistic that Bush may have opened the door to Tehran in a way his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, could not and did not. "I was delighted to see it," said Bruce Laingen, a former U.S. diplomat who was among 52 Americans held by Iranian student revolutionaries for 444 days in 1979-81.

"It was exactly the right thing to say and it was important that it was in the inaugural address, to elevate it to that level" of visibility and importance, he told Reuters.

The 20-minute speech delivered after Bush took the oath of office Friday dealt mostly with domestic policy, but the president also called attention briefly to the "Americans who are held against their will in foreign lands."

Of their plight, Bush said: "Assistance can be shown here and will be long remembered. Goodwill begets goodwill. Good faith can be a spiral that endlessly moves on."

That was as far as he went in the inaugural address and later he said little more, except to reassert the U.S. refusal to make concessions to win the hostages' freedom.

"We keep hearing rumours that countries want to have improved relations with the United States," he told reporters. "I wanted to make clear to them that goodwill begets goodwill."

Nevertheless, in the language of high-stakes Middle East diplomacy, that was enough for a new beginning, said Shireen Hunter of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Bush's comments "did not commit to specifics but they did indicate to Iran that if they wanted to start something going and help the new president then he would do certain things" in return, she said.

The early positive reaction from Iranian state media, including a recommendation from the daily newspaper *Ettelaat* that Iran take up Bush's proposal for cooperation, was significant, she and other analysts said.

Relations between the United States and Iran deteriorated after the 1979 revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed Shah and led to the seizure of Laingen and his colleagues.

That hostility became almost a national obsession over the last eight years when Reagan was president and made a failed effort to trade arms for hostages with so-called Iranian moderates that was his administration's greatest scandal.

The Gulf war had stood as

one barrier to improved U.S.-Iranian relations, but since the belligerents accepted a ceasefire, the hostages are the major remaining obstacle.

Pressure to begin a cautious attempt to improve relations with Iran has come from respected figures in the U.S. foreign policy establishment.

A 1988 study by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy chaired by Lawrence Eagleburger, since tapped to be the new deputy secretary of state, made this point and suggested a crisis in Iran triggered by the death within the next four years of the ailing leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini could be "one of the most critical challenges" facing the United States.

"Static" situation

There was no indication that any new overture from Iran prompted Bush's remarks.

A senior U.S. official told Reuters last week the situation in Tehran appeared to be the same as it has been for some time.

"There may be people in the Iranian government who would like to get on with the opening to the west that was begun about a year ago... but they don't appear to have the ability to translate that at this time into an opening toward the United States," said the official, who asked for anonymity.

But Hunter said Bush's inaugural comments likely would intensify the Iranian government debate on such an opening.

While agreeing with the U.S. refusal to make a hostage deal with Iran, she urged the new administration to keep the Bush initiative alive, insisting there are ways to redress the grievances of both sides without linking them so tightly they appear a quid pro quo.

Devastated by war, Iran has been seeking return of assets seized by the United States after the Shah's fall. U.S. support in a dispute with Iraq over a disputed waterway and economic aid from international financial institutions.

Ominous uncertainty

Still, there is a major element of ominous uncertainty in any U.S.-Iranian scenario.

Washington holds Tehran significantly responsible for the fate of the hostages, whose exact location in Lebanon is unknown.

But as Paul Bremer, the State Department counter-terrorism expert, told Reuters: "While the Iranian government has substantial influence... it falls short of control. It is possible that for whatever other reasons, the hostage holders in Lebanon could have a different way of looking at the agenda than the guys in Tehran do."

Hunter shares this view but nevertheless said: "If Iran puts its whole weight behind it, I think they can go a long way toward getting most of them (hostages) out."

By Glenn Frankel
Washington Post Foreign Service

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

For several days last month, a Jew with a defective heart and an Arab soldier each lay dying in hospitals a few miles apart.

The Arab's healthy heart could have saved the life of the Jew, but blood and politics intervened. The Arab's family said no to a desperate plea from the Jewish family to donate the organ. In the end, both men died.

The 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has spawned many stories of public death and private grief. But few have raised more questions and aroused more emotion among Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, than this tale of two hearts.

"Politics won and life lost," said parliament member Dedi Zucker, one of nearly a dozen prominent Israeli politicians and Palestinian public figures who served as go-betweens in the abortive effort to arrange the transplant.

"The conflict dominates every decision here," Zucker said. "When there is a contradiction between human rights and politics, whether it is Israelis or Palestinians making the decision, politics wins by a landslide."

Before they both wound up in hospitals, the Arab and the Jew had led very different lives. Yehiel Yisrael was 46, a husband, a father of three and a businessman. He was a member of a well-known family that runs a major construction firm, and he lived in a large apartment in the quiet, well-to-do Beit Hakarem neighbourhood.

Mohammad Nasir Hawwash, 20, who worked as a sewing machine operator in a clothing factory, was one of eight children. He lived in his father's apartment, a run-down cold-water flat in a makeshift tenement squatting beside a winding hillside road in the West Bank city of Nablus, scene of almost daily confrontations between stone-throwing youths and Israeli soldiers armed with automatic

weapons.

They never met, and in normal times, their paths never would have crossed. Yet their deaths became entwined.

The story begins on a clear Friday morning last month in Nablus, a day now known as "black Friday." There was a funeral procession for a 14-year-old Palestinian who had died the night before from gunshot wounds, and family members said Hawwash ran down to join the mourners. About 10 minutes later, youths rushed to the family home to tell Hawwash's relatives that he had been shot during a clash with soldiers and taken to a local hospital.

"The conflict dominates every decision here," Zucker said. "When there is a contradiction between human rights and politics, whether it is Israelis or Palestinians making the decision, politics wins by a landslide."

Four Palestinians died immediately from gunshot wounds in the clash and another died the next day. Three others, including Hawwash, were transferred to Makassed Hospital in Arab Jerusalem, where they were put on respirators. Doctors told the families that none would live beyond a few days or weeks.

That Sunday, across town in the western part of the city, Yisrael was wheeled into the operating room at Hadassah hospital for heart-valve surgery. It should have been a routine operation, but something went wrong and Yisrael's heart stopped working. He remained attached to an artificial pumping device but time was running out. Without a new heart, doctors warned, he would die within 72 hours.

That Sunday night, Israel Television's evening newscast showed scenes from the hospital and ended the broadcast with a plea from Yisrael's family for a heart donor for the dying Yehiel.

It did not take long for someone to put the two together. A phone call to Makassed determined that Hawwash's blood type matched Yisrael's, but doctors at the hospital insisted that nothing could be done without the Hawwash family's permission.

The first phone call was made by a woman named Zehava, a friend of the Yisrael family. It was taken by the only family member present at the time, Hawwash's 27-year-old brother Ghassan. Speaking in broken Arabic, the woman asked if she could come and have coffee with him. When he pressed her, she told him what she wanted: his brother's heart.

"She said, 'we have someone who is sick and he needs a heart. Can we have it?'" Ghassan Hawwash recalled. "I told her it was impossible."

Then she told me, "This is how we'll make peace." I told her,

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Then she told me, "This is how we'll make peace." I told her,

Yehiel Yisrael died Dec. 21, three days after the abortive surgery. Nasir Hawwash lived four more days and died Christmas night.

Both families still mourn. Blurry colour photographs of Nasir Hawwash line the walls of his father's dark apartment Jamal Hawwash, an unemployed plasterer, asked, "What did they want from me? We're talking about people as if they were wood or stone, taking a heart or giving it."

Yehudit Yisrael, Yehiel's widow, said she believes Jamal Hawwash might have been willing to donate his son's heart but that he surrendered to demands from other family members and Palestinian radicals not to do so. Sitting in her well-furnished living room in Jerusalem, far from the anguished world of Nablus, Yehudit Yisrael said she had a message for the Hawwash family.

"This was a humanitarian problem," she said. "In a situation like this, there should be no borders. We are all people and if we cannot help each other, then we have no values, we have no basis to live on."

"It's really too bad they didn't help us. My husband, my children and myself were very far from politics. With all of the pain the Arabs have suffered — and it hurts me — my children would like to have their father back and I would like to have my husband."

Palestinian figures also became involved, including Jerusalem newspaper editor Hanna Siniara and Nablus businessman Sami Kanaan, both of whom are considered prominent local supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arabic Israeli weekly ordered shut

THE ISRAELI authorities have made a further clampdown on the freedom of the press within the "Green Line" by giving notice of a closure order to be served on the Nazareth-based Al Raia. The Arabic weekly was warned by Amram Kalaji, District Commissioner of the Northern Region, that the order was likely to take effect within one month.

This move is only the latest in a series of attacks on the Palestinian and non-Zionist press inside Israel. In August 1987 the Nazareth-based Al Jamaher was ordered shut. In February 1988 a closure order was served on the Hebrew and Arabic sister papers Derekh Hanitvot and Tariq Al Sharrara, and four of the Jewish Israeli editors of the papers are currently on trial charged with supporting a terrorist organisation.

In March 1988 the mass circulation Arabic daily Al Itihaad was closed down for one week on the orders of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The closure of Derekh Hanitvot and Tariq Al Sharrara was also preceded by a verbal warning of a very similar nature.

Al Raia (The Flag), which has been published since September 1987, is edited by Raja Ighbaria, a leading member of the Abna'

Al Balad movement. Abna' Al Balad (Sons of the Village) insists that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of Palestinian citizens of Israel, refuses to take part in elections to the Israeli parliament, and calls for the eventual establishment of a secular democratic state for Jews and Arabs in the whole of Palestine.

Despite the fact that the movement is entirely legal, Abna' Al Balad has come in for increasing victimisation from the Israeli authorities. Of the seven Palestinian citizens of Israel placed in administrative detention since the beginning of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, five have been members of Abna' Al Balad. Ighbaria himself was arrested in December 1987 and spent three months in prison without charge or trial.

The following is a letter of protest from Al Raia.

On 15 January 1989 Raja Ighbaria, editor of Al Raia newspaper, was summoned to Amram Kalaji, District Commissioner of the Northern Region in Nazareth, where he was told that the Commissioner was considering using his authority under Regulation 94 (2) of the 1945 Emergency Regulations to close

Al Raia. The Commissioner informed Ighbaria that certain intelligence has reached him according to which the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) gives financial backing to Al Raia in order to exert influence over the newspaper.

The editorial board and the Abna' Al Balad movement reject the Commissioner's false accusations and request that their own response be made public:

1. The newspaper began publication 16 months ago and now has a circulation of about 5,000 copies a week, mainly among the Arab population.

2. The paper has built up a good reputation for supplying up-to-date and reliable information on human and civil rights violations in the occupied territories and in Israel. The material published in the newspaper undergoes very strict scrutiny by the military censor.

3. The newspaper is entirely financed by readers' annual subscriptions, shop sales, advertisements and donations from members and supporters of Abna' Al Balad.

4. We see this anti-democratic move as yet one more instance of the policy of silencing dissent. It

is an assault on all who speak out against the crimes of the occupation. The resort to "secret evidence" is nothing more than a convenient smokescreen behind which to launch anti-democratic attacks on anything which the authorities perceive to be a threat.

5. The district commissioner has not criticised the material published in Al Raia. Suspicion is directed at the control, financial backing and political alignment of the newspaper.

We see this move as another step by the authorities to restrict our movement's political activity. It is no coincidence that this move has come on the eve of the local council elections. (The authorities will not be disappointed that Abna' Al Balad will be at a disadvantage in the election campaign if it cannot use its newspaper to spread its ideas.)

We call on all political parties, institutions and individuals concerned about the preservation of fundamental rights to protest against this anti-democratic measure. We warn the silent majority that fascist moves such as this one do not make distinctions of colour or race.

The editorial board of Al Raia



Le gel a endommagé les cultures

Les fermiers indemnisés

Le Roi Hussein a donné lundi des directives au ministre de l'Agriculture afin que soient indemnisés les cultivateurs touchés par la récente vague de froid.

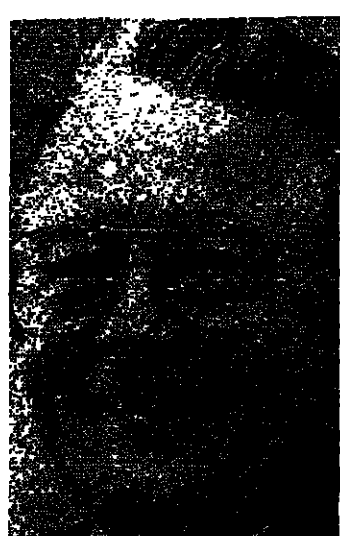
Cette indemnisation, dont le montant n'a pas été précisé, a été annoncée au cours d'une visite du Roi au ministère de l'Agriculture. Il a estimé que le ministre devait aider à maintenir la crédibilité de la Jordanie sur les marchés arabes et étrangers, ainsi que soutenir la lutte anti-accidents dans la vallée du Jourdain et dans la région d'Aqaba.

Sa Majesté a également souligné l'importance de la formation des fonctionnaires du ministère aux nouvelles technologies. Il a mis l'accent sur les problèmes de terres improprement exploitées.

Visite du ministre français des affaires étrangères en Israël

Dumas-Shamir: désaccord

Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, et les responsables israéliens ont exprimé dimanche leurs divergences persistantes sur les moyens d'un règlement du conflit israélo-arabe.



Roland Dumas

M. Dumas a eu des entretiens politiques avec le premier ministre, Yitzhak Shamir, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Moshe Arens, ainsi qu'avec des personnalités politiques israéliennes et palestiniennes.

A l'issue de la rencontre Dumas-Shamir, les deux parties ont souligné le caractère "amicable" des entretiens, sans cacher un désaccord sur la question de la conférence internationale. M. Dumas a annoncé avoir transmis une invitation du premier ministre français, Michel Rocard, à son homologue israélien à se rendre en visite en France fin février.

Une ère nouvelle s'ouvre au Proche-Orient. Une chance existe pour un règlement qui offrira la paix, la stabilité et la sécurité

niens à reconnaître le droit d'Israël à exister. Nous constatons que ce pas essentiel a été fait", a ajouté le ministre. Dans ce contexte, le rôle de la France et de l'Europe consiste à "aider" Israéliens et Palestiniens à négocier entre eux, a-t-il affirmé. "La France considère que le seul moyen d'aboutir à une paix véritable est celui d'une conférence internationale de paix".

Il a souligné toutefois qu'une telle conférence devrait avoir un rôle de "catalyseur", "rapprocher les parties en facilitant leur dialogue et en donnant une caution à un règlement". M. Dumas a estimé par ailleurs que "les récents événements font penser qu'il faut des initiatives préparatoires" à la réunion d'une telle conférence qui ne "se fera pas du jour au lendemain".

De son côté, M. Shamir a réaffirmé son opposition à la tenue d'une conférence internationale "une conférence internationale serait un tribunal où Israël devrait se plier aux deux grandes puissances et aux pays arabes", a estimé M. Shamir. Il a cependant

"Plan de paix", balles en plastique

Rabin: la carotte et le bâton

Le ministre israélien de la Défense, Yitzhak Rabin, manie la carotte et le bâton: dans la même semaine, il a encore assoupli les consignes de tir de balles en plastique et fait de nouvelles propositions de paix, rejetées par les Palestiniens.

Après une période de trois à six mois d'accalmie (de l'intifada), des élections seront organisées en Cisjordanie et à Gaza afin de mettre sur pied une représentation politique pour un million et demi de Palestiniens.

Par ailleurs, il est prévu d'élargir la rue King Ghazi (actuellement à sens unique, toujours embouteillée, qui déverse un flot de voitures sur le flanc droit de la rue Rida, avant le marché de l'or).

Selon les premières estimations, le réaménagement de la basse-ville se chiffre à quelque 4 millions de dinars. Le maire d'Amman avait annoncé le 11 janvier que le vieux marché aux fruits et légumes serait détruit en mars (20 boutiques disparaîtront) pour élargir la rue de 6 à 12 mètres. (d'après Petra, J.T.)

Yasser Arafat a jugé ces propositions "tellement futiles qu'elles ne valent pas la peine d'une réponse de ma part. Rabin sait que ses propositions seront rejetées par le plus petit des enfants palestiniens".

Par ailleurs, l'armée israélienne a de nouveau assoupli les consignes de tir des balles en plastique, en autorisant leur usage par les soldats après sommation contre les Palestiniens qui lancent des pierres, font brûler des pneus ou érigent des barrières. Auparavant, seuls les officiers pouvaient tirer ces balles, en cas de danger de mort pour les soldats. Mises en service en juillet, elles ont déjà tué 40 personnes.

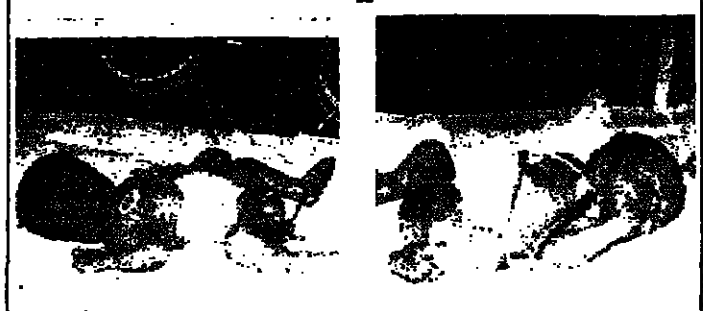
Les initiatives de Rabin interviennent alors que le trouble grandit dans l'opinion israélienne et que la grogne se fait sentir chaque jour un peu plus parmi les soldats, comme en témoignent les critiques contre les agissements de l'armée adressées la semaine dernière par un parachutiste à Yitzhak Shamir. (d'après agences)

Bush à oreilles

A la veille de son investiture vendredi dernier, le président George Bush a déclaré qu'il soutenait la décision de Ronald Reagan d'ouvrir un dialogue avec l'OLP. Mais il a estimé que la déclaration de nouvel an de Yasser Arafat, considérée à Washington comme menaçante à l'égard des Palestiniens modérés, constituait "un recul pour la paix plutôt qu'un progrès".

Le département d'Etat avait annoncé la veille qu'il avait obtenu l'enregistrement d'un discours prononcé le 1er janvier par Yasser Arafat, où il avait déclaré: "Je mettrai dix balles dans le ventre à quiconque pense à arrêter l'intifada avant qu'elle ait atteint son but". Ces menaces avaient été interprétées à Washington comme une mise en garde au maire de Bethléem, Elias Freij, qui avait

Jumeaux-épreuve



"Mabrouk!" Deux jumeaux-épreuves sont nés samedi au centre médical King Hussein d'Amman. La mère et sa paire de garçons se portent bien, indique-t-on de source médicale. L'accouchement, premier de ce type à être expérimenté dans ce centre, a été mené à bien par une équipe de gynécologues, sous la direction du Dr Aref Bataineh. Il a indiqué que la mère essayait sans succès d'avoir des enfants depuis dix sept ans. Son identité ainsi que celle de ses bébés n'ont pas été révélées. (d'après J.T., photos services médicaux royaux)

Humidité, cloques, fissures

Les murs qui pleurent

Chaque hiver, on assiste dans nombre d'appartements à la formation de cloques sur murs, dues à l'humidité. Zahi Khayyat, architecte, explique comment s'en prémunir ou les faire disparaître.

Elles apparaissent dans les immeubles modestes comme dans les appartements huppés. Les cloques, plaie des peintures, sont provoquées par la formation de champignons dus à l'humidité. Le plus souvent imputable à un défaut de finition des bâtiments, elle peut aussi trouver sa cause à l'intérieur de l'appartement, comme l'explique Zahi Khayyat.

Parfois, le simple fait de coller un meuble contre un mur empêche l'air de circuler et des plaques de moisissures se forment, que l'on ne découvre qu'au moment où l'on déplace le meuble.

L'utilisation du chauffage central peut aussi provoquer de la buée sur les murs, en raison de la différence de température entre l'intérieur et l'extérieur. Solution: enduire et nouvelle couche de peinture.

L'eau peut s'infiltrer dans un appartement de dernier étage par le toit, si celui-ci est mal recouvert, ou par la partie supérieure des pierres de façade. Le plus souvent, on applique une couche d'asphalte sur la terrasse, mais rien sur le sommet des pierres qui forment un muret autour. En principe, les pierres supérieures devraient être recouvertes.

Mais pour éliminer la cause plutôt que l'effet, il convient de traiter la paroi extérieure avec une gélantine spéciale. Coût de l'opération: environ 1 dinar par m², main-d'œuvre comprise. Le jeu en vaut la chandelle.



Gros écarts de températures, constructions achevées trop hâtivement: l'eau pénètre

MANGER

Seven Hills: l'Orient

Ouvert il y a neuf mois dans le parc national, le Seven Hills jouit déjà d'une excellente réputation. "Le meilleur restaurant oriental d'Amman", déclare sans hésiter un diplomate américain en poste depuis deux ans. Le gérant libanais, Bahid Rizk, ne dit pas le contraire. Et il s'y connaît: 35 ans de restauration à Beyrouth et Zahle (Sindbad, Casino Arabi...), puis en Espagne. Les cuisiniers, libanais eux aussi, miment un menu sans surprise mais d'excellente facture, à base de mezzés et de viandes grillées. Signe qui ne trompe pas: nous n'avons pas laissé une miette de leur hommos, au risque de paraître mal élevés. Cadre: ogives, tapis de selle et cuivres. Un service furtif et obsequieux, mais il ne faut pas être pressé. Point faible, commun à la plupart des restaurants locaux: l'éclairage, haut placé et un peu blafard. Mais on l'oublie bien vite en écoutant les langoureux syncopés des deux musiciens syriens, qui font danser une clientèle majoritairement arabe et familiale.

Selon M. Rizk, on y vient en foules le vendredi, surtout l'été, où le Seven Hills peut accueillir jusqu'à mille convives sous les pins. Ahlan wa sahlan.

Seven Hills, parc national (route de l'aéroport, parcourez flèche), ouvert tous les jours de 13h00 à minuit. Compter 6 à 8 dinars.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Nuit blanche
Trois films d'affilée, entrecoupés d'un dîner maghrébin:
• 18h15: 7 morts sur ordonnance, de Jacques Rouffio, avec Michel Piccoli, Jane Birkin et Gérard Depardieu: (1976): le destin tragique de deux médecins dans une ville de province.
• 20h00: Le cheval d'orgueil, de Claude Chabrol, avec Jacques Dufrénoy (1980): chronique d'une région pauvre de Bretagne de 1908 à 1918.
• 22h00: Diner (spécialités d'Afrique du Nord)
• 23h00: Mort un dimanche de pluie, de Joel Santoni, avec Nicole Garcia (1987): par vengeance, les Bronski veulent prendre la place des Briand, leur maison, leur vie.
CCF, ce soir jeudi 26. Films sous-titrés en arabe. Billets: 4 JD, dîner compris.

CONCERT ROCK
Sun Rythm Section
Gomez vos bananes et brosse vos chaussures de daim bleu: du rock 'n' roll, du vrai, hérité des pères fondateurs des années 50. Au programme, du rockabilly signé, excusez du peu, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis et bien sûr Elvis Presley.

Palace de Culture (Sports City), vendredi 3 février à 19h00. Billets (1 et 3 JD) en vente au Centre américain et au Conservatoire national de musique. Samedi 4 à l'université du Yarmouk.

Ciné-club
Stances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 26: Moby Dick, Hannover Street, Maltese Falcon. The man who shot Liberty Valance, East of Eden. Le 27: Murder on the Orient Express, Old man and the sea, Man for all seasons, The man who would be a king, 12 angry men. Le 28: Guys and dolls, Horse men, Memphis. The Vikings, Cotton Club. Le 29: Touch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The touch, Metropolis. The quiet man, Wolf behind

EN BREF

Liban: impossible cessez-le-feu

Trois heures après l'accord de cessez-le-feu conclu par l'entremise de la Syrie et de l'Iran, les combats reprennent mercredi dans le Liban Sud entre les milices chiites rivales Amal et Hezbollah. Les affrontements à l'artillerie lourde et au lance-roquettes se concentraient autour de Jubah, place-forte du Hezbollah assiégée par Amal. Un accord de cessez-le-feu venait pourtant d'être approuvé par les deux milices, à l'issue de trois jours de négociations à Damas, sous les auspices du président syrien Hafez-El-Assad et du ministre iranien des Affaires étrangères, Ali Akbar Velayati. Plus de 170 personnes ont déjà trouvé la mort depuis la reprise des hostilités entre les deux milices, le 31 janvier. (agences)

Lèpre: traitement jordanien

Le physicien jordanien Azmi Mohammad Moustapha vivant à Madrid, a découvert un traitement efficace contre la lèpre, très difficile à guérir jusqu'à aujourd'hui. Il a établi que la lèpre était causée par une déficience immunitaire. Devant cette analogie avec le SIDA, plusieurs organisations internationales ont contacté M. Moustapha, afin d'enrichir la recherche sur ce virus.

Ecole-théâtre

Sa Majesté la Reine Noor a remis mardi les diplômes de 101 professeurs de classes élémentaires, à l'issue du stage "théâtre et éducation", organisé par la fondation Noor Al Hussein, en coopération avec les ministères de l'éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur. Cette technique nouvelle privilégie la mémorisation par l'image et développe les facultés d'expression. Elle est notamment utilisable en histoire et en sciences.

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en free-lance, avec idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Ducroux, Jordan Times, 667171.

Boîte aux lettres

Sri lankaises: les bons côtés

J'ai lu votre article du 19 janvier avec beaucoup d'attention. J'espère que ce que vous avez écrit aidera à défendre les droits de quelques pauvres Sri lankaises travaillant en Jordanie. Deux remarques, cependant:

— Vous avez bien vite mentionné les avantages dont profitent ces employées. La majorité jouissent de faveurs propres à la mentalité arabe (ex: une bonne est comptée comme membre de la famille, elle reçoit un cadeau pour les fêtes...). De plus, comme l'a dit le premier ministre, environ 6 millions de dinars ont été envoyés en un an par ces femmes au Sri Lanka, contribuant au développement de ce pays.

— Les abus, comme vous l'écrivez, sont exceptionnels et il y en aura toujours. Il faut les imputer à la situation de guerre au Sri Lanka (le gouvernement n'a pas le temps de s'occuper de ces bonnes), mais surtout au manque d'organisation du consul en Jordanie. L'exemple du consulat philippin, efficace, en est une preuve flagrante.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du comité des droits de l'homme sur cette situation.

Père Moussa Adeli
(directeur de Caritas)

Amman: nouveau centre

Le premier ministre Zeid Rifaï a apporté mardi le soutien du gouvernement au projet municipal de réaménagement de la basse-ville à Amman.

A l'occasion d'une réunion tenue en présence de Zeid Rifaï dans les locaux de la municipalité, le maire d'Amman, Abdul Raouf Abu Al Rawabdeh, a dressé un inventaire des problèmes actuels du centre-ville: embouteillages, pollution, trottoirs encombrés, difficulté de canaliser les eaux de pluie, sur concentration de boutiques et d'ateliers, rendant ce secteur malcommode aussi bien pour les touristes que pour les riverains.

Le plan, qui vise d'abord à faciliter la circulation tant des véhicules et des piétons, prévoit notamment de relier les rues Safi Al Sail ("rue de Rivoli"), avec ses arcades en

Jordanie-Yémen: échanges

Le premier ministre de la République Arabe du Yémen, Abdel Aziz Abdel Ghani, a effectué samedi et dimanche une visite officielle en Jordanie, où il a été reçu par le Roi Hussein. Cette visite a donné lieu à un train de mesures renforçant la coopération bilatérale dans tous les domaines, en particulier au niveau économique.

A cette occasion, le Haut comité jordanien-yéménite, constitué en novembre dernier, a tenu sa première réunion samedi, sous la coprésidence de Zeid Rifaï et de son homologue yéménite.

Dans la jungle des marchands de musique

Pirates, à vos cassettes

En l'absence de droits de reproduction, le marché de la musique, en Jordanie comme dans bien d'autres pays, se caractérise par une prolifération sauvage de cassettes pirates. Avantage: Le prix imbattable. Inconvénient: la qualité. Nous avons jeté une oreille chez les reproducteurs.

Le disque, vinyle ou compact, ne risque pas de pénétrer de si tôt le marché jordanien. Si les Occidentaux ont longtemps dévoré de la galette de cire avant de succomber aux rayons laser du compact-disc, les Arabes, eux, restent fidèles à la cassette, premier et dernier amour de leurs oreilles. Et de leur profiteur: qui débourse 15 dinars pour acheter en CD le dernier Michael Jackson, alors qu'on le trouve sur cassette pirate pour un dinar?

Pour médiocre qu'en soit souvent la qualité sonore, les consommateurs locaux n'en font pas moins la sœur oreille. Car moyennant un prix dérisoire, la copie pirate ressemble fort à l'original: souvent même pochette en couleurs, liste des morceaux, enregistrement correct. Que demander de plus?

Khaled Bayyat, ancien batteur du groupe jordanien Mirage et propriétaire du magasin de musique Cloud Seven, à djebel Weibdeh, estime le marché juteux.

"80% des Jordaniens sont acheteurs de cassettes, surtout arabes", selon lui, mais "10% sur le nombre prêtent attention à la qualité musicale et sonore". Ce passionné de rock, qui depuis 1975 collectionne amoureusement les disques anglo-saxons, avoue ne vendre ses copies-cassettes à 2,5 dinars qu'à un cercle restreint d'initiés. A tel point qu'il songe sérieusement à cesser cette activité pour se concentrer sur les sonorisation de soirées, qui constituent déjà l'essentiel de ses bénéfices.

Même son de cloche chez



La qualité se trouve chez les "artisans", qui copient eux-mêmes. Vérifier la marque de la cassette et la vitesse de duplication

Fawaz Abu Lama, pionnier du défilé qui a ouvert en 1971 Odd Records, un des tout premiers magasins de musique à Amman. Pour cet infatigable voyageur, la diffusion musicale de qualité revêt la bûche de l'apostrophe. Il initie patiemment ses fidèles à la "new age" américaine, en passant par le style arabo-andalou, le soul, le jazz et Charles Trenet, dans son antre proche de la galerie nationale.

Tiroir-caisse

Mais lui aussi fait figure de marginal de la cassette, et son gagne-pain est ailleurs. Car quand il s'agit de faire tinter le tiroir-caisse, l'équation est simple: le client achète ce qu'il a déjà entendu à la radio ou à la télévision, qui passent principalement de l'arabe commercial et les Mozart du top 50. Quant aux puristes de la radio comme Zafer Toukan, archéologue du blues, ils recueillent une audience limitée. Les édifiants "Together forever" de Rick Asley et "Habiba ya habibi" de Hamid Al Shairi, en revanche, se vendent comme des petits pains. Dansez jeunesse.

Comme l'explique Jamal Bisan, propriétaire de Music Box (entre le 7ème cercle et Pizza

cassettes écoulées par jour, soit un chiffre d'affaires de 20 à 40 dinars. Jamal ne survivrait pas. C'est pourquoi lui aussi rentabilise son stock en sonorisant des soirées, de 50 à 200 dinars par prestation selon le temps et le matériel fournis.

Made in Singapour

Ce n'est pas le cas de Mohanna, chef d'orchestre d'Audio-Video, le magasin le mieux achalandé d'Amman (King Faisal street). Partie émergée de l'iceberg, cette officine n'est que la denture d'une grosse importation de cassettes pirates, qui fournit bon nombre de distributeurs dans la capitale. On n'en saura pas plus. Un choix d'albums made in Singapour unique à Amman s'étale sur les présentoirs: de très récents Trent d'Arby, Tracy Chapman, Madonna... Mais aussi de bons vieux Elvis, John Lennon, Pink Floyd, Marvin Gaye, les tubes indiens et japonais, une sélection de classique. Et bien sûr, les incontournables Fayrouz, Oum Kalthoum et du folklore irlandais. Sans oublier Léo Ferré, Serge Lama, Téléphone et autres Joe le taxi. Mais - faut-il s'en plaindre? - Audio Video a quelques mois de retard sur le top 50.

Les cassettes, vendues un dinar seulement, ressemblent à s'y méprendre à leurs modèles de chez CBS, Pathé ou Virgin. Aristocratiquement scellées sous cellophane, elles ne dévoilent qu'à l'ouverture une réalité moins héroïque: des cassettes bon marché au son un peu saturé. Mais à ce prix... La qualité, de l'avis des acheteurs, est très honorable. Avec certes quelques surprises (les fins de bande collimatées au Trini Lopez, une boîte marquée Dire Straits contenant des valse viennoises), mais honorable. Et en cas de maladresse, Mohanna échange sans discuter. De toutes façons, ici comme ailleurs, il vaut toujours mieux s'assurer de son

achat en demandant une écoute probatoire.

François Ducroux

Acceptance and denial

The Palestine Question
By Henry Cattán
Croom Helm Ltd, New York,
London, Sydney, 1988
Reviewed by Pascal B. Karmy

AMMAN — The author of the Palestine Question, Henry Cattán, is a jurist of international repute and a recognised authority on the Palestine question. Born in Jerusalem he was in the legal practice in Palestine and was well known to the Palestine legal circles. He has written extensively on the Palestine question, Palestine, the Arabs and Israel, Palestine and International Law, and the Question of Jerusalem are among his more known works.

BOOK REVIEW

historical interest. Just as a disease cannot be treated without knowledge of its cause, so also the Palestine question cannot be resolved unless there exists a full and proper knowledge of its dimensions.

In part I the author narrates cursorily the history of Palestine prior to 1917 and emphasises three things: first that the original inhabitants of Palestine were the Canaanites and the Philistines from whom the name of "Palestine" was derived. The Israelites came to Palestine about 1200 BC and settled in parts of it only. The Jewish occupation of Palestine or parts of Palestine was simply an episode in the history of that country. Second, the Palestinians of today are the descendants of the Canaanite, the Philistine and other early tribes which inhabited the country. Third, the Muslim conquest of Palestine Arabised the inhabitants of Palestine but

did not colonise it. The author exposes the fallacy that the Arabs first came to Palestine in the 7th century AD at the time of the Muslim Arab conquest. The author analyses and criticises the U.N. partition of Palestine in 1947 which has caused untold bloodshed and misery to the Palestinians and that, as a result, Palestine has been bleeding ever since.

In part II the author deals with the events from the emergence of Israel in 1948 and up to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. On Camp David accords of 1978 and 1979, the author describes them as a "sham" and that they concealed a sordid deal between Sadat and Israel for the return of Egyptian territory at the expense of the people of Palestine.

In part III Cattán deals with Jerusalem. He shows with historical documentary evidence in his support that Jerusalem was not a Jewish city as it did not belong to the Israelites. Jerusalem belonged to the Jebusites but was later captured by King David in 1000 BC. The author stresses the religious significance of Jerusalem to Islam and Christianity.

U.N. role

In part IV the author examines various past initiatives for the settlement of the Palestine problem and discusses the principles for achieving a just solution of the Palestine question. He criticises Security Council Resolution 242 as, among other matters, it ignored the inalienable rights of the Palestinians. He suggests three steps for the solution of the Palestine question. The first should be the proclamation of the state of Palestine on the basis of the Palestinian sovereignty and also on, subject to reservations, the basis of Partition Resolution 181 of Nov. 29, 1947. This first step can be taken by the Palestinians alone without United Na-

The Palestine Question

Henry Cattán

Israel should evacuate the occupied territories and hand them over to an international authority for subsequent delivery to the state of Palestine. The reader will remember that this is exactly one of the decisions taken by the PNC in Algiers.

Observations

There are two observations the reviewer likes to make: In his book Palestine and International Law Cattán was too theoretical. He has analysed and argued in depth the illegality of the partition resolution, the illegitimacy of the state of Israel and forcefully attacked Resolution 242 as it failed to account for the wrongs done in Palestine and even purports to legitimise the Palestine injustice. Although in the book under review Cattán does not deviate from that analysis or arguments submitted in his previous book, he nevertheless seems to accept U.N. resolutions albeit with reservations. The second observation is that Cattán has dealt in this book with the legality and justifiability of the Palestinian guerrilla action against Israel under international law and pertinent U.N. resolutions. He compares the guerrilla campaign against Israel with limited means, with the fully-fledged war of Israel conducted against the Palestinians with the state's resources. He mentions the massacres committed against the Palestinians after the establishment of the state of Israel for all of which Israel was condemned by the U.N. Security Council and narrates the role and responsibility of Israel in the massacres in Sabra and Shatila in 1982.

Lastly Cattán's book contains reliable sources, maps and a comprehensive index. It deserves to be in one's library as an important reference book on the Palestine question.



West German President Richard von Weizsäcker (left) honoured Hans Werner Richter (centre), co-founder and leader of Group 47, on his 80th birthday. Writer Günter Grass (right) also took part in the

conversation at Villa Hammerschmidt on 6 December 1988 (Photo: INP/dpa)

The fuse was lit at the Pulvermühle The Group 47 revisited

By Peter Bonson

WAISCHENFELD, near Erlangen, early October 1967: The Pulvermühle, an idyllic hostelry in Upper Franconia did not exactly present a peaceful picture. Whilst a hundred German writers were reading criticism and discussing their works inside, Erlangen students were staging a demonstration outside, calling on the assembled authors to display greater political commitment.

Scarcely any one of the participants could have suspected that this incident was spelling out the beginning of the end for "Gruppe 47", a literary institution which had acquired legendary dimensions. The final dissolution came a year later. The Group had promised Czechoslovakian writers a convention in Dobříš Palace, near Prague. It was to take place in September 1968. This was prevented by the intervention in Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops in August 1968. Hans Werner Richter, writer, founder and driving force of Group 47 for many years, had promised his Czechoslovakian colleagues that the Group would only be convened again if the meeting could take place in Prague.

The end of the "Prague Spring" and the student eruption in 1968 — the disappointed expectations of the Socialist reformers and the political formation of a critical generation in the West; both processes stamped European societies over the next twenty years. Various events in this country recalled this on countless occasions; 1988 was a year of retrospection and taking stock of the 1968 occurrences. The part played by literature was frequently overlooked.

It was in this very context that Group 47 — albeit indirectly —

made a fundamental contribution, via the "literary public", to the upheaval by the 1968 generation in the Federal Republic of Germany, even though, paradoxically enough, they have not been able to cope with the result. The vociferous protests by Erlangen students outside the Pulvermühle, laid at the door of supposedly unpolitical literature, could not help but overtake the largely artistic image of the majority of the Group's members. Politically active authors like Heinrich Böll (Group member from 1951-1965), and Günter Grass (from 1955-1967), are two of the exceptions. And yet, the literary image of the founder generation of Group 47 had always had a political aspect. "Antifascist" and "anti-authoritarian" were the words Hans Werner Richter used to describe, in retrospect, the lowest common denominator for the authors who met the Ilse Schneider-Lengyel's house on the Bannwald-see, near Füssen/Allgäu to prepare the foundation of a literary-satirical magazine entitled "Skorpion", early September 1947. They were, for the most part, members of the editorial staff of "Der Ruf", a "magazine for German prisoners-of-war in the USA" which had been looked after by Walter Mannzen, Gustav René Hocke and Alfred Andersch at Fort Kearny. It was republished in Munich but folded after a few months. "Skorpion" was to succeed "Der Ruf". But this project likewise came to naught. Instead, "Gruppe 47" was spawned at informal working sessions of the editors. The Group was headed by Hans Werner Richter to the day it was dissolved. The members met regularly once or twice a year. The informality — and, if you wish — the Group's "basic democratic" frankness, as well as the severity of their criticism of other members writings, which the authors read aloud, became a byword (authors were not allowed to defend themselves, for instance).

The Group had been formed during the chaos of the postwar years in a move to seek literature representing a radically new departure. The literary traditions of the prewar era, which included works from the external and internal emigration scene, were rejected. The sober, down-to-earth realism of authors such as Faulkner or Hemingway became the stylistic paradigms; thematically, the early Group 47 associated itself with French Existentialism which sought to focus on individuals who had broken with all social and religious ties. Even so, there was never a common "Group 47 literature" at any time; the basis on which they met was more idealistic in nature, though strictly anti-ideological.

In his "Almanach der Gruppe 47" (published 1962), Hans Werner Richter says "all impulses, all idealistic efforts, all attempts, all longings for a new beginning and the regeneration of the whole of German social life gathered in Group 47." The works which were written during the Group's early years came under the somewhat problematic heading of "Kahlschlagliteratur" (Clean-sweep literature) in the history of German literature; its leading exponents, apart from Alfred Andersch, are Wolfdieter Schürre, Günter Eich and Wolfgang Iser.

In the years that followed, Group 47 became more and more the central literary authority in the Federal Republic of Germany. Gradually general interest — and thus that of publishers — in the works of the young authors was aroused. The prizes awarded by the Group from 1950 onwards became more and more secure

starting capital for a literary career, such as in the case of subsequent Nobel laureate Heinrich Böll (the Group awarded him a prize in 1951), Martin Walser (he received the Group prize in 1955) and Günter Grass who, together with Böll, is the internationally most successful German author of the postwar era, and recipient of the Group prize in 1958.

The growing importance of Group 47 for the literary market did not go uncriticised, of course; even so, its function as a platform was more important, helping to make literary currents and trends directly apparent. This happened on several occasions, such as at the convention in Niendorf in 1952 when Paul Celan and Ingeborg Bachmann presented their lyric poetry, and Ilse Aichinger her now famous and prize-winning "Spiegelgeschichte." Or at the convention in Aschaffenburg in 1960 when Dieter Wellershoff, Ludwig Harig and Jürgen Becker experimented with new prose forms.

Be it Böll, Grass, Harig, Erich Fried, the lyric poet who died recently, or Siegfried Lenz, this year's winner of the German Book Trade's Peace Prize: any writer who succeeded in weathering the oft-times scathing criticism of the Group 47 forum, usually enjoyed literary success afterwards. Anyone wishing to familiarise himself with postwar German literature cannot bypass "Gruppe 47". The decline of the Group is simultaneously an indication of a political public which, apparently, no longer needs literature for its own self-communicative purposes. But the authors from Group 47 have themselves decisively contributed to this situation — at the price of political insignificance of literature — (IN-Press).

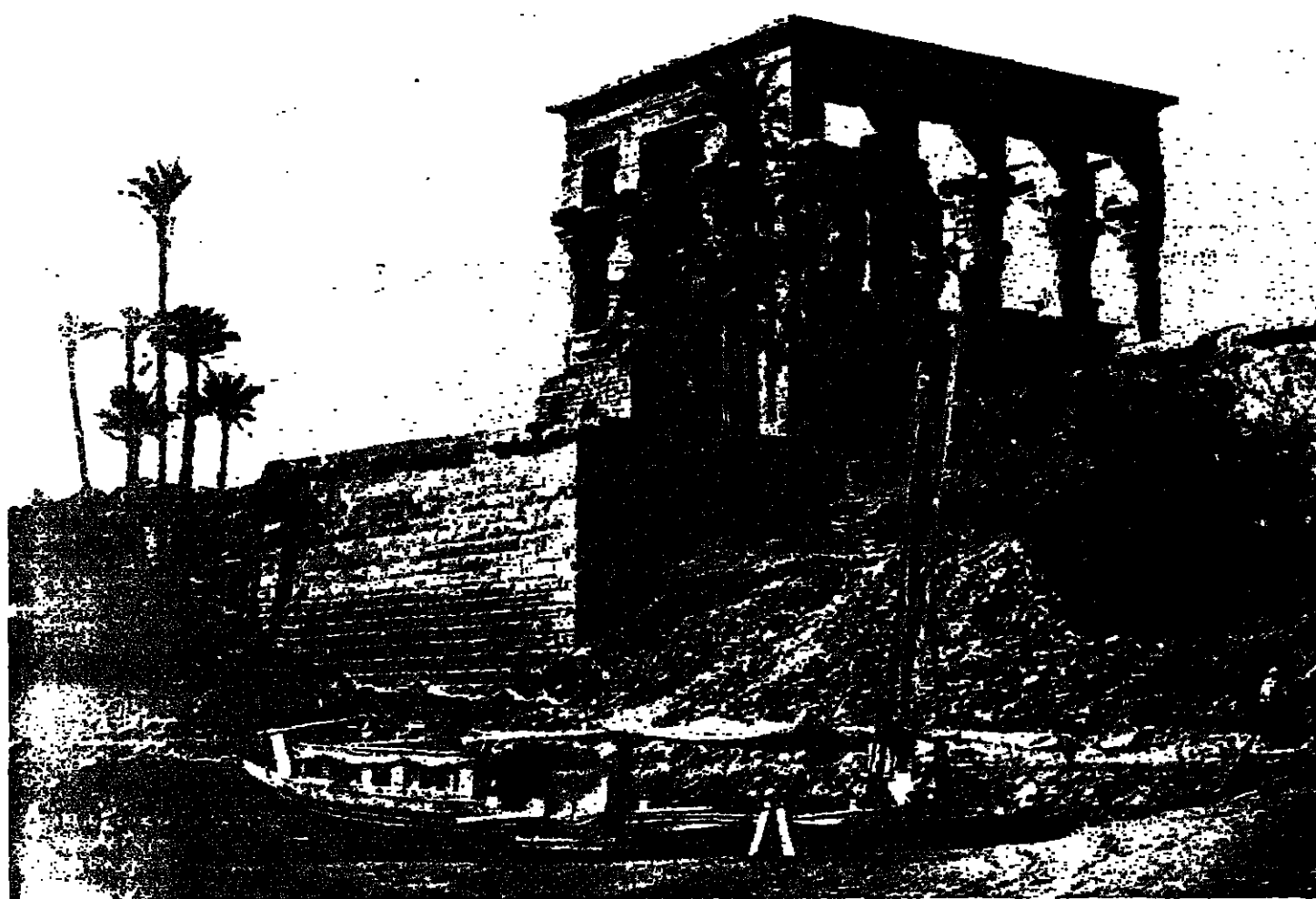


PHOTO EXHIBITION: Under the patronage of Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri, an exhibition of 19th century photography of the Middle East, entitled "under pure skies", will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre from Thursday, Jan. 26 through Tuesday, Jan. 31.

The exhibit, composed of 100 prints taken from rare and fragile originals held by Eastman Kodak's International Museum of Photography in Rochester, New York, represents the work of such renowned artists as Francis Frith, Felix Bonfils, the Abdullah brothers, and John Shaw Smith.

These artists were drawn to the Middle East by the area's beauty and by its strong, clear light, necessary to the successful use of 19th century photographic equipment. The exhibit displays the full breadth of their work, with photos of sites ranging from Algiers to Damascus. Several photos of Jerusalem, Petra, and the Dead Sea are also included.

The history of photography began in 1839 when French inventor Louis DaGuerre succeeded in taking the first known photograph, a "daguerreotype" of the moon over Paris.

A hundred and fifty years later, the American Cultural Centre

in Amman, in cooperation with Commodore — Kodak Agents in Jordan, is celebrating the anniversary of this event with this exhibition.

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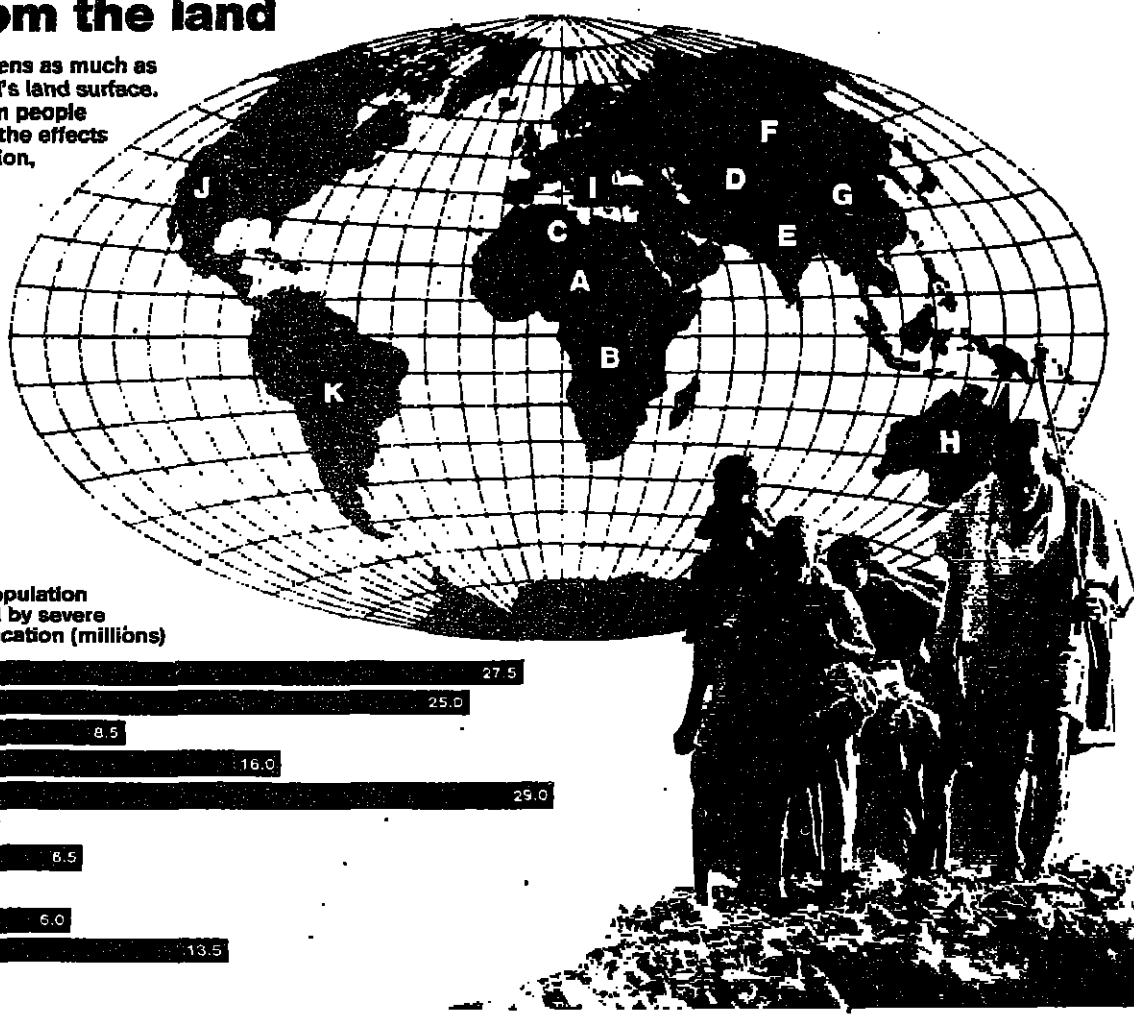
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Exiles from the land

Desertification threatens as much as one-third of the world's land surface. More than 100 million people are already suffering the effects of severe desertification, many of them forced to leave their homes in search of a new livelihood. Africa alone has 10 million such "environmental refugees".



A place of my own

On-the-spot reports from Sweden, Nepal, Costa Rica and Kenya on how ordinary people are coping with the pressures of environmental change.

Sweden

Death in the forest

Chemical pollutants are killing European forests. Henrik Ekman reports from Sweden on how the life of one farmer has been affected by the outpourings from power stations and chemical plants.

Arne Olsson walks through his forest north of Gothenburg. It is a clear and beautiful day. Flocks of crossbills fly from tree to tree, attracted by the thousands of spruce cones. A raven calls in the distance; perhaps it has found the left-overs from a moose hunt.

Days like this used to fill Arne's heart with joy. But now he feels no joy — for the spruce trees that stand out on the horizon are dry and thin. The *Waldsterben* (forest death) has left its unmistakable mark.

The centre of Sweden's petrochemical industry is just ten kilometres away at Stenungsund. Nearby there is also an oil-fired power station without modern cleaning equipment. For 20 years the forest has been tormented by their hydrocarbon, nitrogen and sulphur emissions. Added to these are the wind-carried pollutants from other European countries — particularly the United Kingdom. The damage here is

now as bad as that in the Black Forest in West Germany.

Arne is one of the tenth generation of Olssons to have lived here on the farm "Hog" in Bohuslän county. His ancestors first arrived in the late 17th Century. The house and barn are beautifully located on a hill surrounded by small fields and by ridges billowing with forest. But the trees are thinning out rapidly.

"Nowadays you can see the trunk of the spruce trees from the root to the top," Arne explains. You used to be able to see only the needles.

The spruces on the ridges are exposed to the eroding winds from the south-west and show the classical signs of damage — drooping twigs and thin crowns. The young pines have only this year's needles left — normally the needles should last three to five years.

"It's terrible to see something you have tried to build up being demolished so thoughtlessly," he looks at a young stand which he himself planted 30 years ago of which there are now only a few scattered remnants. Aerial surveys have shown that more than one fifth of the forests around here have lost 60 per cent of their

needles. And chemical analysis shows the earth to be very acidic. Nearby Lake Gardsjön has become so polluted that only the most hardy organisms survive.

Arne picks up a test disk he has cut from a mature spruce. The growth rings are even and thick for the first 60 years as the tree grew naturally.

Growth stopped

"But then something happened," he says, pointing to the growth of the last 20 years — rings that are so thin they almost shrink into one. "Over this period the tree has hardly grown at all."

Arne Olsson has not yet been hit very hard financially by the damage done to the forest. He has been felling stands which matured before they could be too badly spoiled by the chemical pollutants. But he is living on borrowed time. To work in a sustainable manner Arne should cut no more than two hectares a year. But the chemical damage to the tree quality has been such that he has had to cut at twice that rate for the past two years — a rate for which he is going to have to pay sooner or later.

"I'll just have to quit cutting in some years or I will run out of forest." And since a third of his income comes from the trees this will hit him very hard.

But the pollutants are damaging more than the trees. The rest of the ecosystem is changing as well. Some mushrooms, for example, disappear when there is too much sulphur and nitrogen

while other plants such as nettles thrive in such an environment.

Arne Olsson's forest is in one of the most polluted parts of Sweden. Things are not yet so bad in the country as a whole — a survey in 1987 showed that though there is a serious thinning of the crowns in spruce trees only a relatively small proportion of the country's trees are so badly affected.

For Arne, however, things could well get worse. A new highway is being built only a couple of miles away bringing additional pollution from vehicle exhausts — particularly oxides of nitrogen. There have been protests from environmentalists — the "tree huggers" — who have delayed completion of the road. But it now looks as though it will go ahead.

"I wonder if drivers ever think of the damage they do to the forest?" asks Arne.

Measures

Yet there are positive measures which could be taken to save the forest. Local industries could be obliged by environmental authorities to lower their hydrocarbon emissions. The introduction of catalytic cleaners could help purify exhaust emissions. The British authorities could introduce modern cleaning equipment into their coal-fired power stations.

Maybe then Arne Olsson's trees could be regenerated — and a little of the joy of the forest return to his life.

Costa Rica

The problems for women and children — and especially single mothers — are daunting in many Third World cities. But they can be tackled, given commitment by the community, and support from the government. Emma Daly reports on a successful project in Costa Rica.

"I have made a definitive change in my life," says Sonia. "Now I work for my own convictions." Sonia is a single parent. She and seven-year-old Oscar live in a new house which she built herself with the help of her neighbours and friends.

Sonia and her husband left the small town of San Isidro del General when she was 19. When they arrived in the Costa Rican capital, San Jose, she found a job in a shop. When her son Oscar was born she stopped working. A few years later her husband left her.

Sonia was in a difficult situation — without any secure income or home to live in. So she took matters into her own hands. She joined the National Patriotic Committee — which helps organise community groups. She was also a founder member of an organisation of mothers who went on hunger strike to protest their lack of housing. Shortly after, they began negotiations for the Guarari Housing project.

The family is very important in Costa Rica. It provides the main support system. But many women find the code of conduct it imposes intolerable. For women

like Sonia marriage appears to offer a form of escape, a chance of an independent life. But as she found out they often exchange one yoke for another.

"I was going mad," says Sonia. "I had nothing interesting to do. My whole life was looking after my husband and my son. I never even left the house."

Now at Guarari, she feels protected and independent. The project, she says is "incredible", adding "we are like one big family. I feel safer living with other women, and at last I have my own house."

"This is one of 35 which were built as a pilot scheme. I got one of the first because priority is given to single mothers and the elderly." Her five-room house is dominated by a tank of the pretty tropical fish she loves. At the moment two friends are busy laying a wooden ceiling, then the house will be complete. "Everything was done by hand."

The low, white-washed houses are built in clusters of four around concrete paths wide enough to take an ambulance or a fire-engine. "We don't have cars," Sonia explains, "so why should we have roads? They just create a dangerous environment for the kids." Each house has a tiny unfenced garden to hang washing in, but the surrounding area is common land. Small pools and sand pits between the houses cater to the children's needs. Their mothers know they can play safely; there is always someone keeping an eye out.

Sonia's story

"I want to help people," says Sonia, "and that's what everyone does here." Building the roads, flattening the footpath pitch, running the coffee farm they have started, everything is done by the local people — though materials are provided by the Ministry of Housing, who also pay architects and engineers.

"We all share the work. Some women provide food and others care for the children, enabling the rest to get on with whatever task is waiting." She explains that most progress is made on a Sunday. "That's when people are free to do what they really want."

Women get priority

There are lots of men around the 113-hectare site — the husbands, sons, or companions of the Guarari women. But the priority is to provide accommodation for women.

"This is a very macho society," she says. "Before, I had no home of my own. I lived in the house of either my father or my husband. Then if a marriage breaks up, the woman has to return to her family. Even if the fathers are told to pay for the children, either they can't or they won't."

Sonia is now financially more secure because there are also community businesses, some already flourishing, others still being planned: the coffee farm, a pineapple nursery, a pottery and crafts workshop. Soon there will be a co-operative food store. There is already a child-care centre and a meeting hall where

residents get together for dances and parties after the business meetings. By the time the site is finished in (they hope) two years time, there will be a hospital and a police post. The school opens this year.

When they were planning this site the women were adamant that should keep the land as natural as possible. "This was just the side of a hill. We wanted to keep it green. We wouldn't let them cut down any trees." They even built low brick wall round the trees that were close to the planned new access road so that they wouldn't be bulldozed accidentally. They are also introducing useful plants — medicinal ones like aloe, as well as mint and oregano.

Sonia has thrown her energy, enthusiasm and considerable talent into the new community — and it is easy to see why. Costa Rica does not have all the problems of many developing countries. It has a hundred-year-old democracy, no army, free education for both sexes since 1869, a well-established system of free medical care and electricity in 80 per cent of houses.

All this helps ensure the quality of life. But the problems of homelessness and poverty, acknowledged by President Arias, need to be addressed by projects such as this and they need people like Sonia to work on them. She is justifiably proud of the Guarari experience. "There is a great future here for women — for all of us."



Kenya

Kenya has one of the world's highest population growth rates. As each generation passes, the family farm must support more and more people. Dorothy Munyaho talks to one family about why they left their village and came to Nairobi.

Joseph Mutiso works for an airline maintenance company at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta international airport. It is hard and demanding shift work. Yet Joseph is the eldest son of a family with a 50-acre plot of land. He could be back in home village helping his father tend the maize and the coffee bushes.

"We adopted the best land-management practices. We decided not to split the land up

among the six brothers. But it has not been any use. We cannot rely upon getting an income from the land. So have had to come to Nairobi to earn money for the family."

Joseph comes from the Machakos region, some parts of which do have fertile soils. But extended periods of drought followed by torrential downpours have washed away the much of the topsoil. This was recognised 80 years ago and there were some efforts made at soil conservation. But at that time there was little population pressure. The elders felt little incentive to preserve the land when so much more was available. Now the population growth rate is three or four per cent per year and there is no more land to move onto.

Running out of land

So Joseph and his wife Sarah came to Nairobi. Sarah works too, selling vegetables. She has to wake up long before dawn to catch the first bus into the wholesale market, jostling for merchandise among the teeming crowds. She has to take a 50 kilogramme sack onto the bus and then carry it for a kilometre to the selling point. The income they make goes to sustain themselves and their daughter. But they also have to support other members of the extended family.

At present, however, one of those people is staying with them. Sarah's mother is ill and currently occupies a bed in the sitting room. She too is feeling the effects of a shortage of good land. She was left two acres by her late

husband and she grows maize and coffee there. In turn she intends to share it between her two sons. But she knows that is no more than a gesture of parental obligation.

"One acre cannot sustain you," she says. "When you grow coffee, for instance, by the time you have paid for the spraying, you might only finish up with \$20 for the whole crop."

With the land deteriorating and population pressure obliging families to split the land up into smaller and smaller portions it is little wonder that more and more young Kenyans are heading for the big city.

"Somebody," as Joseph says, "always has to move away to search for work." UNFPA.

Nepal

The crumbling hills

The forests of Nepal have become a danger zone. The felling of trees and quarrying for rocks have heightened the risk of floods and landslides. K.S. Jayaraman reports from a village in Nepal where an increase in population has led to a serious environmental hazard.

Life has not been the same for 41-year old Jit Bahadur since the trees disappeared from the hills surrounding Lele, his native village, some 25 kilometres from the picturesque valley of Kathmandu.

Bahadur was a prosperous carpenter until ten years ago. He used to make his living by making and selling ploughs and cars, using the wood that was so easy to bring from the dense forests on the slopes of the hills. And it took his wife, Santa Kumari only 30 minutes or so to fetch the firewood to cook the family's food. "But as you can see, there are no longer any trees there," says Bahadur pointing to the bald hills. "So I don't make wooden implements any more. And nowadays it takes my wife a whole five hours to collect the firewood."

Bahadur's fate has been shaped by the environmental changes that have taken place in the hills of this Himalayan Kingdom. His was a happy extended family. Bahadur and Santa have four children of their own but they also used to live with his three brothers and their wives and children. As the joint income dwindled with the disappearing trees

the family split up and went their separate ways. Bahadur's eldest son left home to seek work in Kathmandu.

The loss of the trees has resulted in more than just a loss of income. Trees help to anchor the soil and reduce the force of the water flowing down the slopes. Once the trees have gone, the surface becomes loose and a heavy downpour is all that is needed for boulders to career down the hillsides to the valley below.

"We live under a constant threat," says Bahadur, "landslides from the hills on one side and flash flooding from the river on the other." Four years ago a landslide thundered through the sleepy village, smashing 20 houses and killing 63 people. Their bodies were washed away

in the swollen Lele river. In 1987 alone 500 people were killed in Nepal in landslides. And every year 250 million cubic metres of topsoil is washed away to the Bay of Bengal.

Hash Poudyal is Lele's village chief. He lost his own home in a landslide. He explains that the surrounding hills lost their forest cover because an increase in population caused a greater demand for fuelwood. The population jumped in ten years from 6,000 to 9,000. Added to that, he says, there is a high level of unemployment which has driven people to cut trees and sell them in the village markets.

"The landslides started only seven years ago when the hills had become totally bald." He remembers his younger days when tigers roamed forests that were full of rhododendrons, Nepal's national flower. "Now there is not a single flower left. No birds, no animals and no trees."

The villagers also discovered that one environmental problem



Hash Poudyal



Arne Olsson

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JABAL AMMAN OFF. JORDAN INTERCONTINENTAL

Morocco targets 'people's capitalism'

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada said Tuesday he planned to dismantle exchange controls and create "people's capitalism" in the next stage of a drive towards an open, competitive economy.

"I think in three to four years, there will be no more foreign currency controls in Morocco," he told Reuters in an interview. "It is not by foreign currency controls we will attract hard currency."

Berrada — an outspoken advocate of a World Bank-sponsored adjustment programme — maintained the country had turned the corner since a 1983 debt crisis.

He pointed to economic growth last year of eight per cent and inflation of only 2.5 per cent — one of the lowest rates in the Third World.

A combined liberalisation and austerity package had led to a big

improvement in export ability and resulted in a surplus on current account last year of \$12 million, the first for 13 years.

Berrada stressed that much of the economy had already been freed of controls and said the process would be speeded up now Morocco was generating foreign exchange reserves.

"We will this year begin to accumulate foreign exchange earnings which will strengthen our position and allow us to continue in this policy," he said.

He said challenges ahead included the need to cut bureaucracy and involve more people in the capitalist system through privatis-

ing state-run companies.

"Privatisation will play a major role in economic growth by increasing the private sector, and by creating a society of individual capitalism, a people's capitalism," he said.

He said he wanted to create an economy which included many small savers and shareholders, adding that his policies were changing the structure of society.

Berrada said he planned an international financial centre in Casablanca — the country's business capital — where banks could undertake offshore banking activities "without being in an off

shore zone."

The World Bank's latest list of most heavily-indebted Third World nations ranks Morocco eighth.

But the minister disputed World Bank figures which put his country's end-1987 debt at \$22 billion. He said it was between \$18 and \$19 billion, but only some \$3 billion of it was with private creditors.

"The structure of our debt is extremely well-balanced. A country which is in debt with commercial banks and which accepts a difficult rescheduling of its debt, of which some 90 per cent is private, is very seriously inde-

bted," he said.

"What is important is not the overall volume but the structure. We are among the countries least indebted. It all depends on what it (the debt) includes," he argued.

Predicting economic growth of at least four per cent in 1989, Berrada shrugged off criticism that his policies were geared only to repaying debts at the price of long-term investment.

"It is very easy to want to spend money, to increase salaries with money we have not got because we are in debt and then these same people criticise because we are in debt," he said.

Thousands of Israelis strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thousands of Israeli aircraft industry workers went on strike Wednesday for higher pay, while telecommunications employees launched work slowdowns to press their wage demands.

Meanwhile, farmers in a northern settlement said they would face creditors with assault rifles if there was any effort to seize their property.

Some 16,500 workers at the state-run Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) staged a one-day strike to demand a five per cent wage increase granted to other government-run corporations under a recent wage agreement.

The workers were denied the payment because the finance ministry ruled that IAI was a failing company and workers should forego the pay increase to

assist in its recovery, Israel Radio said.

"We are not a failing company," Yacov Shefi, the union secretary, said in an interview on the radio. "We have cut our work force by almost 4,000 people, and now we are an exporting and profitable company. We will not agree to be second-class workers."

Many of the layoffs followed the decision in 1987 to cancel construction of the Lavi fighter jet.

Avigdor Kaplan, deputy head of IAI's personnel department, said paying the increase "will harm the company and, in the end, the workers themselves."

A similar pay increase has been demanded by some 9,000 workers at the state-run Bezek Communications Company, who be-

gan three days of work slowdowns Wednesday. The radio said Bezek employees will not man reception desks and will work only limited shifts.

The work slowdown also could disrupt telephone information and repair and overseas operator services, the daily Jerusalem Post said.

Bezek workers have threatened a 48-hour strike if their demands are not met by Sunday. A strike could seriously disrupt not only telephone services but state-run radio and television broadcasting.

The finance ministry has denied the five per cent wage increase to Bezek workers because they received extra payments in 1987.

Israeli firemen have limited their activities since Monday

Fed to keep interest rates high to cool U.S. economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan, reaffirming his determination to lower U.S. inflation, said Tuesday he would keep interest rates high to take some steam out of an economy still surprisingly strong.

Testifying to the House Banking Committee, Greenspan disputed the notion that inflation in the present four to 4½ per cent range was acceptable to the Fed and said the central bank was still aiming for price stability.

"Current inflation rates, by that criterion, clearly are too high and must be brought down," he said.

The Fed has been raising interest rates steadily for the past 10 months in an effort to cool the economy. The prime rate is now at 10½ per cent, a four-year high.

Nevertheless, Greenspan said growth exceeded three per cent in 1988, on the heels of five per cent growth in 1987, and there were few signs of any significant obstacles to a continuation of the 74-month-old expansion.

"If growth were to continue indefinitely at the recent pace, the concomitant tightening of supply conditions for labour and materials would risk a serious intensification of inflationary pressures at some not-too-distant point in the future," he warned.

Some industries, including steel, paper and chemicals, were already operating flat out, while a drop in the jobs rate to a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent was pushing up wages.

As a result, the Fed had little choice but to keep tightening its grip on the nation's money supply.

"It is our judgment — as indicated to the Congress last July — that the long-run costs of a return to higher inflation, and the risks of this occurring under current circumstances, are sufficiently great that Federal Reserve policy at this juncture might well be advised to err more on the side of restrictiveness than of stimulus," Greenspan said.

The Fed has already pushed up the rate on overnight bank loans, which influences the cost of credit throughout the economy, to nine per cent from 6½ per cent last March, and many economists expect it to rise to at least 10 per cent.

The spectre of tighter credit deals an early blow to Bush, who is counting on falling interest rates to help him reduce the budget deficit without raising taxes.

Bush will submit his budget proposals to Congress by the middle of February, House Speaker Jim Wright said Tuesday after meeting the president at the White House.

Greenspan also poured cold water on the premise of Bush's economic advisers that continued economic growth alone would generate enough tax revenues to cut the deficit painlessly.

"If you ask me can we grow out of the current services deficit with a credible economic forecast, I would say I would doubt that very much," Greenspan told the panel.

But the Fed chief held out a carrot to Bush and Congress. If they worked out sizable reductions in the deficit, he hinted, the Fed would loosen its grip on credit.

"Containing the pressures on labour and capital resources — while continuing to reduce our external imbalances — will require a slowing in domestic demand. Such an outcome will be facilitated to the extent that the federal budget deficit is reduced," the Fed chairman said.

If Congress and the White House failed to negotiate a package to reduce the deficit he would prefer automatic spending cuts rather than abandoning the deficit-reduction targets prescribed

by the Gramm-Rudman law.

On other issues, Greenspan said the improvement in the U.S. trade deficit had stalled temporarily but that it would start to decline again because exports were still strong thanks to the drop in the dollar between 1985 and 1987.

"The dollar now is at levels where U.S. industry is quite competitive," the Fed chairman said.

Mosbacher pledges retaliation against closed foreign markets

Robert Mosbacher, President Bush's choice to be secretary of commerce, pledged Tuesday to hit foreign countries with trade curbs if they closed their home markets to American goods.

He made his promise of a tough trade stance to try to cut the big U.S. trade deficit — now running at about \$135 billion a year — in his confirmation hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee.

Mosbacher told the panel his priorities were "expanding overseas markets for U.S. goods and services while vigorously enforcing our anti-dumping and counter-vailing duty laws."

The department plays a key role in imposing tariffs on foreign goods if the imports are dumped on the U.S. market at less than cost or if they are produced with state subsidies.

He said he would try to see if penalties could be imposed on the European makers of Airbus aircraft — West Germany, France, Britain and Spain — for subsidising planes that are increasingly taking business away from U.S. planemakers.

Mosbacher, responding to a question from Senator Slade Gorton, a Republican from Washington state where Boeing aircraft are built, said: "We will pursue that, to find a method to level the playing field."

U.S. and European officials have had extensive talks about the alleged subsidies but without resolving the issue. The Europeans claim the United States subsidises its planemakers through Defence Department contracts.

Mosbacher also said he backed voluntary import curbs on foreign steel which are due to end next October.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Statoil plans job cuts

OSLO (R) — State-owned oil firm Statoil, Norway's biggest company, has said it planned to shed jobs over the next three years in a drive to cut costs. Cornerstone of Norway's oil industry, Statoil has been hit hard by lower crude prices and by cost overruns at a refinery project at Mongstad, western Norway. It said it planned to cut 1,500 man-years from the 11,000 staff by the end of 1991 and cut costs by some two billion crowns (\$300 million) annually in that period. A man-year is the amount of work done by one staff member in a year. Job cuts would be made partly through early retirement, by continuing a freeze on new hirings begun last summer and by reducing the number of temporary employees and consultants. The company repeated earlier statements that it was reconsidering all new North Sea projects and other investments in the light of the need to cut costs, including a possible sale or exchange of stakes in some petroleum fields. Statoil reported a 46 per cent drop in profits in the first nine months of 1988 and, in 1987, its first loss in almost a decade — of 1.5 billion crowns (\$225 million).

Fiat profit climbs 23 per cent

TURIN, Italy (R) — Italian car, aviation and defence giant Fiat has said it boosted operating profit by 23 per cent last year, helped by booming car sales in Europe. Profit was a provisional 3.82 trillion lire (\$2.8 billion). Sales rose 16 per cent to 44.45 trillion lire (\$32.9 billion). Fiat SPA's president, Giovanni Agnelli, told shareholders in a letter that business had been better than expected with European car sales up 9.8 per cent to 1.93 million. The group, which makes Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Lancia cars, tied with West Germany's Volkswagen A.G. in the battle to lead Europe's car market with almost 15 per cent of the market. "1988 was a boom year and the Tipo was a great success," said Francesca Lolli of London brokers Hoare Govett.

Turkey gets \$60m U.S. economic aid

ANKARA (R) — The United States gave Turkey a \$60 million economic grant for 1989, part of increasing assistance to its NATO ally. The money would go towards Turkey's \$7.3 billion debt servicing bill in 1989, officials said. The economic support funds were a tranche of \$563.4 million of U.S. aid planned for Turkey in the 1989 fiscal year, up from \$525.3 million in 1988. The \$60 million grant for 1989 was nearly double a \$32 million grant last year. "The United States demonstrates by this transfer its confidence in, and support for, Turkey's continuing economic growth and development," U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss-Hupe said at a signing ceremony in Ankara. Turkey's total non-military foreign debt fell in 1988 to \$36.4 billion at the end of October last year, down from \$38.3 billion at the end of 1987. After Israel and Egypt, Turkey is the third largest recipient of U.S. aid. "Overall, 84 per cent of the aid will be in the form of a grant in 1989, higher than last year. It gets better all the time," said one U.S. official.

Portuguese firm wins big Iranian job

LISBON (R) — Portuguese shipyard Lisnave has signed a contract with Iran to repair oil tankers damaged during the Gulf war, a company spokesman has said. Under the deal, worth an initial \$5 million and signed with the National Iranian Tanker Company, Lisnave S.A. said it would repair several ships in 1989 and might overhaul more in the future. No precise number was given. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is a new market for Lisnave and is an exciting new opportunity," the spokesman said. The first tanker, the 224,00-tonne Bisotoun, is due to arrive at Lisnave's facilities here Wednesday for repairs totalling some \$1.5 million, the spokesman said. Loss-making Lisnave, 40 per cent state-owned, once did brisk business with Iran under the late shah.

Arianespace reveals huge space contract

PARIS (R) — The company that launches Western Europe's Ariane rocket said Tuesday it will spend \$3 billion on 50 launchers, the biggest space rocket contract ever.

Arianespace Chairman Frederic D'Allest announced the order despite reports from satellite manufacturers that world space markets are shrinking, and that commercial rocket launchers will find it increasingly difficult to pay their way.

The contract for 50 Ariane-4 rockets will be signed Feb. 15, D'Allest told a news conference.

He said Arianespace, which launches the rockets for the 11-nation European Space Agency, planned nine launches in 1989, and he denied the company was chasing a disappearing market.

"It's a tight market, but it's

wrong to say that it's a shrinking one," he said.

D'Allest said he hoped Ariane would grab nine or 10 of the 15 commercial satellite contracts due to be signed this year.

The Western European launcher has taken more than half of the world satellite launch market since the U.S. space programme collapsed after the 1986 crash of the space shuttle Challenger, but international competition is hotting up.

Three U.S. companies, China, Japan and the Soviet Union are all bidding to launch commercial satellites.

Two U.S. satellite makers have estimated only between 10 and 15 satellites will be ready for launching annually after 1991, when Arianespace says it will be launching nine rockets capable of

carrying at least two satellites each.

D'Allest said most satellite orders at the moment were coming from Western Europe, but that in two or three years time U.S. companies would need to renew ageing satellites, which have a lifespan of about 10 years.

He said between 15 and 18 satellites would need to be launched annually, and that the Ariane rockets would probably carry just one satellite each in future.

Most satellites launched are for telecommunications purposes, supplying computer data, telephone links or television and radio signals, but D'Allest said the European firm was seeking more meteorological and military satellite contracts.

Arianespace's efforts to become the first non-U.S. company to launch a NATO military satellite were still under way, "although first contacts have not been fruitful," he said.

The order for 50 Ariane-4 rockets will guarantee work for dozens of contractors and subcontractors around Europe.

The European Space Agency is made up of Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, France, Britain, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden.

D'Allest said contractors would include France's Aerospatiale and Matra and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB).

Ariane-4 rockets usually cost about \$100 million each, but space officials said the bulk order had cut the cost.

Iran accuses Arabs of flouting OPEC quotas

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Wednesday accused Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states of breaking an OPEC output agreement and predicted that prices would slump.

The official IRNA news agency also suggested that talks opening in London Thursday between OPEC and non-OPEC states were unlikely to lead to a breakthrough on output in January would probably exceed its planned 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by 1.5 million b/d, or eight per cent.

The overproduction was "primarily due to excessive UAE (United Arab Emirates) production and above-quota output by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," said the IRNA commentary monitored in Nicosia.

"Many oil industry observers believe that a short-term market decline (in prices) is all but inevitable," it said.

Prices have risen more than \$5 a barrel since the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), including Iran, agreed in November to cut output by about 20 per cent in the first half of this year.

But prices have lost some of the gains in the past few days. Dubai crude, the Middle East benchmark, fell to \$14.40 a barrel in Tokyo Tuesday on the spot market.

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IRNA said prices were likely to fall because:

— Record OPEC output in December of 23.5 million b/d would reach export destinations in February.

— Use of stockpiled oil in mid-winter, expected to amount to between two and 2.5 million b/d for the first quarter of the year, would lower demand for OPEC oil.

— Non-OPEC production at or near capacity, except in Britain. Industry sources in the Gulf said Tuesday that OPEC output in the first half of January was about 19 million b/d.

They said Saudi Arabia, which backed Baghdad in the Iran-Iraq

war and still has strained ties with Tehran, pumped an average of 4.53 million b/d in the first three weeks of January, just over its new quota of 4.524 million b/d.

IRNA quoted an independent oil consultant, Bahrain Karbassoun, as saying the meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil states would prepare plans for "practical action some time during 89."

No breakthrough at the talks on prices and output was likely. Representatives of eight independent oil producers — Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, North Yemen, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — will attend the meeting. They pump 8.3 million b/d between them.

South Africa fears weak gold price

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Buffeted by sanctions and a weaker gold price, South Africa faces another jolt as bullion slips toward the psychological \$400 an ounce mark.

"Gold is so important for this country. We are always anxious about the gold price level especially when it approaches \$400. It has very serious consequences," said Edward Osborn, chief economist of Nedbank, the country's third biggest bank.

Gold accounts for some 45 per cent of export earnings and economists say a sustained \$10 price drop in the bullion price costs about \$200 million a year in lost revenue.

The metal has trading just below \$402 an ounce in Europe recently compared with almost \$500 a year ago.

"The trouble with the gold price is that it's not something that's amenable to easy prediction and certainly not something the South African authorities can control," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist at Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., one of the nation's major mining houses.

The South African Reserve Bank, the central bank, never reveals what gold price it has budgeted for in setting monetary

policy, but it is understood to take a conservative view.

Bullion analysts say if gold stays at current levels or drops again, the rand will weaken and the balance of payments surplus will shrink as gold exports bring in fewer dollars.

South Africa needs to generate a surplus on its balance of payments — a rough measure of trade in goods and services — to make repayments on its estimated \$22 billion foreign debt.

It has had only one new foreign loan since international banks cut credit lines in 1985 amid anti-apartheid pressures.

Osborn said a dip in imports plus healthy exports in minerals other than gold had strengthened the balance of payments position in recent months.

"Everything in the garden is rosy, except for the gold price," he said. "We're facing an enormous crunch in 1990-91. We've got to put money aside for those two years."

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	489.0	491.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.2 385.1
Pound Sterling	865.8	870.1	Dutch guilder	235.0 236.2
Deutsche mark	265.4	266.7	Swedish crown	77.9 78.3
Swiss franc	313.2	314.8	Italian lire (for 100)	36.3 36.5
French franc	78.0	78.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	126.7 127.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7710/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1822/32	Canadian dollar	
	1.8408/15	Deutsche mark	
	2.0775/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.5648/55	Swiss francs	
	38.52/56	Belgian francs	
	6.2625/75	French francs	
	1347/1348	Italian lire	
	126.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.2700/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.6690/6740	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1400/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	404.80/405.30	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A strong market closed on its day's high as investors pursued quality stocks across the board. The All Ordinaries index finished up 10.9 at 1,536.2.

TOKYO — Share prices firmed to a record close after last-minute futures-related buying brought prices up from afternoon lows. The Nikkei rose 10.11 to 31,567.79.

HONG KONG — Prices edged fractionally lower, leaving brokers unclear on the market's direction after Wednesday's long-awaited land auction. The Hang Seng eased 0.29 to end at 2,900.74.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed on a buoyant note after renewed buying interest and bargain-hunting brought widespread

Hershiser named AP male athlete of the year

NEW YORK (AP) — Pitcher Orel Hershiser of the Los Angeles Dodgers was named the Associated Press male athlete of the year Tuesday, finishing far ahead of his Olympic competitor.

Hershiser became the first non-Olympic to win the honor in an Olympian year since Denny McLain in 1968. Hershiser, who set a record with 59 shutout innings, is the 22nd baseball player to win the award in its 58-year history and the first since Dwight Gooden in 1985.

Hershiser got nearly twice as many votes as his world series rival, Jose Canseco: 67 first-place ballots and 465 points, with Canseco — the first player to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases in a season — getting 30 first-place votes and 233.

College football's Heisman trophy winner Barry Sanders, who set all-time college records for rushing yards and touchdowns, was third with 207, followed by Olympic swimmer Matt Biondi with 152, National Basketball Association star Michael Jordan with 91 and Olympic diver Greg Louganis at 59.

Voting was done by sports writers and broadcasters on a 5-3-1 basis. The AP's female athlete of the year will be announced Thursday.

"This caps a year of fantastic awards," Hershiser said. "It is a tremendous honor to be recognized with an award which covers all sports."

Hershiser's 23-8 record and 2.26 earned run average made him the unanimous National League CY young winner.

His record 24 2-3 innings, amazing save and shutout in game 7 against the New York Mets made him most valuable player in the National League playoffs.

NBA Roundup

Hawks 121, Cavaliers 105
NEW YORK (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 41 points, equalizing his season high, and hit a key 3-point goal in the fourth period in powering the Atlanta Hawks to a 121-105 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers Tuesday night.

The victory was Atlanta's fourth in a row and snapped a five-game winning streak by the Cavaliers, who have the best record in the National Basketball Association at 30-8.

Wilkins made 17 of 24 shots, including three 3-point goals without a miss. Moses Malone added 21 points while Larry Nance led the Cavaliers with 28.

Nets 117, Nuggets 115
Buck Williams scored a season-high 27 points and the New Jersey Nets held off a late Denver spurt to hand the Nuggets their fourth straight loss.

Denver guard Michael Adams,

who scored eight points, missed all six of his 3-point shots, ending his NBA record of 79 consecutive games with a 3-point basket.

Supersonics 103, Trail Blazers 100

Derrick McKey scored 13 of his career-high 34 points in the final period to lead Seattle to its fourth straight victory. The Sonics led 72-60 with 6:21 left in the third quarter but the Trail Blazers went on a 15-4 burst to close the gap to 76-75 heading into the final period.

Bulls 109, Mavericks 91
Michael Jordan scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter after sitting out seven minutes with a knee bruise as Chicago handed Dallas its 10th straight road defeat.

Rockets 118, Heat 93
Otis Thorpe scored five points and Purvis Short had five during a 19-4 second-half run that po-

wered Houston over Miami and lifted the Rockets within one-half game of first-place Utah in the Midwest division.

Suns 106, Hornets 103

Eddie Johnson scored 11 of his 31 points in the fourth period and Phoenix withstood a late Charlotte comeback to hand the Hornets their fourth straight setback and 18th in 20 road games.

Knicks 122, Lakers 117

Patrick Ewing's 25 points plus a tight New York defense down the stretch helped the Knicks win a battle of division leaders and hand the Lakers their first setback in 18 home games this season.

Bucks 114, Kings 110

Larry Krystkowiak scored four of his 21 points in the final 39 seconds as Milwaukee beat Sacramento for the 12th straight time.

Australian Open quarter finals

Sabatini to challenge Graf

MELBOURNE (R) — The new teenage dynasty of women's tennis, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, meet in an Australian Open semifinal Thursday which may indicate if power or all-round grace will dominate the game in the 1990s.

The clash is a match befitting the final between Graf, a 19-year-old many consider unbeatable, and her 18-year-old doubles partner, who has put glamour back into the game.

Graf is the undisputed world number one after winning the Grand Slam last year, then adding the Olympic title.

The West German has won 14 of her 16 encounters with Sabatini and is obviously favored. But most of her meetings have been memorable, especially Graf's 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win in the U.S. Open Final last year.

Last year she lost just two sets on the way to her four Grand Slam titles, including that one to Sabatini. She has dropped only 13 games in her five singles matches here so far.

But Sabatini, the third-seeded Argentine, is hungry for the top spot. "My one ambition is to be number one. That's all I have in my mind," she said this week.

She inflicted two of Graf's three defeats last year and is the one player whose all-round game can trouble Graf on a regular basis.

Sabatini was a semifinalist at last year's French Open before losing to Graf. Then she reached the fourth round of Wimbledon and the final of the U.S. Open.

Her progress here has been less smooth than Graf's. She has dropped three sets and had prob-

lems with her serve as she labored in her quarter-final to beat American Zina Garrison 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova, 23, rubbed in the decline of the old guard Tuesday when she defeated Martina Navratilova 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 in the quarter-finals.

It was the first time Navratilova had failed to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open in 10 attempts.

The other member of the old firm which has dominated tennis for the past decade, Chris Evert gave Melbourne a miss this year, despite being a losing finalist in 1988.

Whoever wins the big showdown is likely to meet Sukova in Saturday's final. She is odds-on favorite to beat New Zealand's unseeded Belinda Cordwell in her semifinal.

MELBOURNE (AP) — Ivan Lendl destroyed John McEnroe's title dream with a straight-set victory Wednesday in the quarterfinals of the \$2.4 million Australian Open.

"I played very well, but he played better," McEnroe said. Lendl crashed a remarkable 40 passing shots past the American to win 7-6 (7-0), 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) and earn a meeting in the semifinals with 11th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria.

Muster gained the semifinals for the first time in a Grand Slam

event when two-time champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden was forced to default with a mysterious and painful back injury.

Edberg suffered the injury during his fourth-round victory over Australian Pat Cash and said it would keep him out of action for at least two weeks.

Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, the ninth seed, crushed Yugoslav teen-ager Goran Ivanisevic 7-5, 6-0, 6-3 to also advance to the semifinals, where he will face unseeded Swede Jan Gunnarsson.

Gunnarsson, who almost retired a year ago after a painful knee injury and is playing in the event for the first time, beat his 14th seeded compatriot Jonas B. Svensson 6-0, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Both men's semifinals are scheduled for Friday.

Lendl, who has never won the Australian Open, was at his very best against McEnroe, whose last victory in a Grand Slam tournament was in the 1984 U.S. Open.

McEnroe believed he had a realistic chance to beat Lendl, but had no answer to the powerful Czech's precision from the baseline. The no. 2 seed rifled backhands past the outsmiling McEnroe with regularity and his service never was threatened. McEnroe reached deuce on it only once.

Lendl also returned serve spiritedly, repeatedly hitting his shots to McEnroe's feet. McEnroe did not play badly, dropping serve only twice, but was never able to raise his game to his opponent's level.

Lendl now has a 15-14 record over McEnroe, with whom he has duelled for the past decade. He

has won their last four encounters. He is bidding for his first Grand Slam title since the 1987 U.S. Open but has lost in the semifinals in Melbourne for three straight years.

"I feel if I keep playing like today, it should be good enough," Lendl said Wednesday.

Big-hitting Muster never has previously made it past the third round of a Grand Slam and has made the semifinals without facing another seed.

"I don't feel bad about it. I can't do anything about it," Muster said of Edberg's injury.

Edberg had been aiming for his fourth straight semifinal. Swedish players have won the event five straight years, but the nation's hopes now rest of unseeded Gunnarsson, ranked 85th in the world.

Gunnarsson eliminated his second seed of the tourney when he ousted Svensson. He also beat sixth-seeded Frenchman Henri Leconte in the first round.

"I'm very surprised... I could never believe before this tournament I would get this far," Gunnarsson said. "It's like a dream."

Gunnarsson, 26, a 10-year-veteran of the professional tour, said he has been playing his best tennis for a long time. Mecir holds a 2-1 career edge over Gunnarsson.

Mecir was far too steady for Ivanisevic, who is ranked 300th in the world and playing only his fifth senior tournament. The Czech player, dubbed the 'Big Cat' because of his graceful movement, returned Ivanisevic's left-handed serves particularly well.

Edberg laid up by back

MELBOURNE (AP) — Tennis champion Stefan Edberg, who withdrew Wednesday from the \$2.4 million Australian Open, has been ordered not to play for at least two weeks, tournament director Colin Stubs said.

Edberg, 23, the tournament's fourth seed, was given the medical advice after damaging his back in a fourth round match against Australian Pat Cash Tuesday, Stubs said.

"Stefan has been told not to play for at least two weeks and it may be as long as four before he resumes," said Stubs after announcing the Swede's withdrawal.

Edberg was scheduled to play the unseeded Austrian Thomas Muster in a quarterfinal match Wednesday afternoon.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There is a general sense of well-being today. You feel well-balanced and can be a friendly helper to others who may need a friendly ear for their problems. The emotional mood changes in the evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Rest up and avoid fatigue as a result of an overloaded schedule. Plan for a fun weekend and include young family members.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Deal with those you trust, and avoid shady people. Credit can take a negative turn if abused. Be certain of your budget requirements.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid pushing your good natured partner to the limit. Lack of tact may be remembered in the future. Try soft music and flowers.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan a large sale to rid yourself of all the items you purchased at other garage sales. Put what you do have to good use.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your mate's ego can be bruised if you fail to understand his or her point of view. Walk softly today, and take a candlelight approach.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

Resist super salespeople who may have you buying what you really can't use. Depend on your intuition and good sense.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Making adjustments to a romantic tie could be painful but necessary. Believe in what you can and will do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Current cycles favor loving relationships. Plan a local trip or outing even if you can't get to the Caribbean.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Current love cycles flow and emotions run deep. Just a little enthusiasm on your part will open Cupid's floodgates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make friendly overtures to associates. Give yourself credit for creative inspiration. Organization is the ultimate goal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make allowances for unplanned issues that crop up. A forgetful mood may cause you to lose something.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) These around you may seem in practical in their approach. Deal with emotional people as best you can.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1989

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Some people may feel troubled due to loneliness that stems from being out of touch with relationships. This is a fleeting mood. This is not a favorable time to tackle delicate situations.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Hoping that the odds are in your favor is not enough. Study the matter and stay with what is feasible. Luck is on your side.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Arguments need to be toned down and compromised. The homefront is a safe refuge today. Family members appreciate you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Legal problems can arise if you ignore important matters that need attention. Adopt whatever measures are necessary.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) All sorts of happy opportunities could come along. Don't fail to recognize them because of preoccupation with material matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take a more conservative approach with a new love interest who will not be impressed by a lavish approach. Try to collect an old debt.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You could get caught up in change just

for the sake of change which has poor results. A friend or close associate may try to take charge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A little gentle prodding can move social interests along. Plans and arrangements can be made easily today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Chatter-chatter around you can affect your nerves. Stay clear of the gossip and back away from any discordant situations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Retreating from an emotional situation will not settle the matter; only postpones it. Patiently, in your kindest way, air out the difficulty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Tides are turning in your favor financially. Your level-headed approach and personality furnish the ideal atmosphere for progress.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The potential for boredom is there unless you do something about it. Adventure and variety could be a remedy.

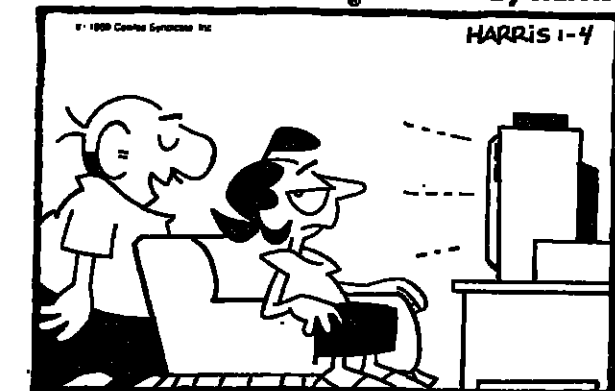
GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K3 ♠AKJ105 ♦8 ♣AKJ52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q76 ♠A9873 ♦8 ♣K762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A2 ♠K932 ♦AKJ6 ♣KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
South East North West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K932 ♠A2 ♦AKJ6 ♣KQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South East North West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A2 ♠K932 ♦AKJ6 ♣KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A2 ♠K932 ♦AKJ6 ♣KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

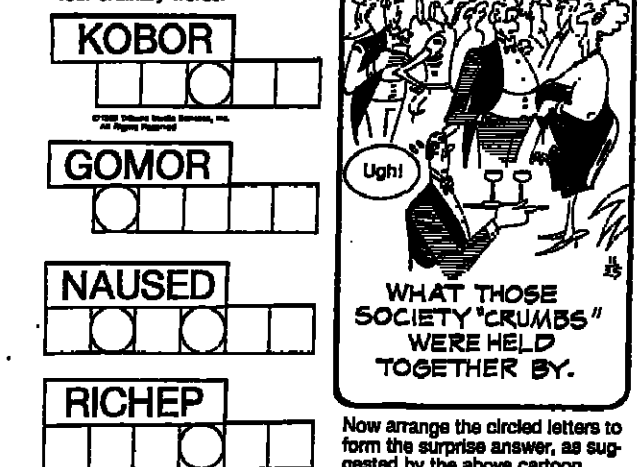
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"My regular personality will not be seen tonight so that I may bring you the following special mood..."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

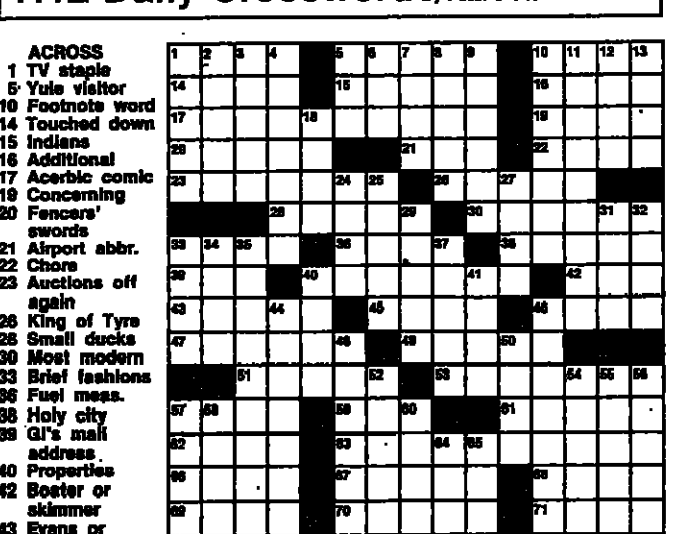


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUSTY AGONY GYPSUM PRAYER
Answer: Keeping up with the Joneses might also involve keeping up with these — THE PAYMENTS

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift



- 1 TV staple
5 Yule visitor
10 Footnote word
14 Touched down
15 Indians
16 Additional
17 Acrobatic comic
18 Concerning
20 Fencers' swords
21 support abbr.
22 Chron
23 Auctions off again
26 King of Tyre
28 Small ducks
30 Most modern
31 Brief fashions
36 Fuel mass.
38 Holy city
39 GI's mail address
40 Properties
42 Booster or skimmer
43 Evans or Ronsdorf
45 Author
46 Singer
47 Some beams
49 Dirt
51 Raised
53 Airward
57 Choir member
59 Mauna —
61 Fr. river
62 Shacks
63 Cervantes hero
66 — de caccia
67 Beginning
68 Any time
69 Strong desires
70 US Civil War general
71 Perched
25 Champagne word
6 Biblical craft
7 World's longest river
9 Couple
9 Attack
10 Ape
11 Film star
12 Goats
13 Tiled
14 — of Wight
24 Falls behind
25 Blush gray
26 L.A. athlete
27 Jargon
31 Wound cover
32 Goodbye
33 Season
34 Samson port
35 Diamond
46 Taxes it easy
48 Not often
50 "La Boheme" character
52 Lorna
54 Math problem
55 Valuable find
56 Enroll
57 Plow maker
58 Vehicle need
59 Handic
60 Math problem
61 Letters
62 Indian

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peking, Hanoi reach broad agreement on Kampuchean pullout

PEKING (R) — China and Vietnam have reached broad agreement on an internationally supervised withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea by September this year, diplomats said Wednesday.

China has agreed to phase out military aid to the coalition of three guerrilla forces, including the Khmer Rouge, in parallel with a Vietnamese pullout.

Asian and Western diplomats told Reuters that deputy foreign ministers from both sides agreed in talks in Peking last week that the end of Vietnam's 10-year-old occupation of Kampuchea would be monitored by an international supervisory body that had yet to be defined.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, blamed by Western governments for the deaths of more than one million people during their four-year rule.

Last week's talks between China and Vietnam were the first since late 1979 after their brief border war earlier that year.

The deputy ministers failed to agree on the form of an international supervisory mechanism or how general elections would be held after a Vietnamese withdrawal, diplomats said.

China is in favour of an international peacekeeping force to be sent to Kampuchea but Vietnam

opposed this. "A pullout by September looks increasingly likely but a solution to Kampuchea's internal conflict is far from settled," said one diplomat who asked not to be identified.

Exiled resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk who is backed by China and non-communist southeast Asian nations said Tuesday that the Kampuchean problem was still deadlocked.

"There is still deadlock. We are far from a solution, far from a breakthrough to put an end to the present deadlock," he told reporters on arriving in China on his way to crucial talks on Kampuchea to be held in Indonesia next month.

The diplomats said Vietnam also put forward substantial proposals to China as steps towards restoring full relations.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem proposed that both sides end hostile propaganda and armed clashes, pull back their forces from their common border and reopen air and rail links.

Vietnamese and Chinese naval forces skirmished among the re-

more Spratly Islands in the South China Sea last March. Both claim sovereignty over the islands, as do other Asian countries.

The Chinese delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing, did not react to Vietnam's proposals. Peking said normal relations with Hanoi would follow a complete withdrawal from Kampuchea.

Vietnam says it has 50,000 troops in Kampuchea. It announced earlier this month they would all be withdrawn by September if a political settlement were reached, namely an end to Chinese aid to the guerrilla resistance forces and their use of bases inside Thailand.

The two delegations agreed to meet again. Asian diplomats said they expected the second round of talks to be held in Peking, possibly next month.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is due in Peking Feb. 2 and Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila Feb. 9, Asian and Soviet sources said.

Kampuchea will be high on the agenda, they said.

Diplomats said the rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union — Vietnam's main ally — was the main impetus behind efforts to end the 10-year-old Kampuchean conflict.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to visit China before June for the first Sino-Soviet summit since 1959.



An elderly woman comforts a bereaved young wife in the village of Sharora, Tajikistan, after Monday's earthquake

Rescuers give up hope in Tajikistan

MOSCOW (R) — Rescuers have given up hope of finding more survivors under a mudslide that covered buildings and towering poplars after an earthquake in the Soviet republic of Tajikistan, the official TASS news agency said Wednesday.

The republic bordering Afghanistan marked a day of mourning for the villagers who died in Monday's disaster, with flags flown at half mast, restaurants closed and concerts cancelled.

The death toll from the quake and landslide remained unclear. Despite a Soviet official's statement that more people had survived than first thought, Soviet newspapers said the number of deaths could still reach the early estimate of 1,000.

The early-morning quake, which measured seven on the 12-point Soviet scale, sent a torrent of mud up to 20 metres deep crashing into villages.

Moscow radio said two plane-loads of supplies had been sent to Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, about 50 kilometres northeast of the stricken zone.

TASS said the authorities had received offers of rescue teams from throughout the Soviet Union and abroad as it had after last month's earthquake which killed at least 25,000 people in Armenia.

The bitter truth is that it is already impossible to save anyone from underneath the landslide caused by the quake,"

TASS said. "Houses are buried under millions of cubic metres of earth."

The daily Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya said elders in the region had asked the government commission dealing with the disaster to leave victims entombed in the debris in the village of Sharora, completely buried by the slide.

"Their decision was to let it remain a common grave," the newspaper said. "Everything has remained covered. Not even the tops of tall poplars can be seen."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Tuesday the question had been raised whether digging up bodies would violate the traditions of the area's mainly Muslim population.

Gerasimov said that about one-third of the people of the village of Okulibol, all given up for dead earlier, had escaped after hearing the rumble of the onrushing slide. He did not, however, give a revised death toll.

Many people have been rescued alive from under the mud.

TASS said Tuesday that only one person was pulled out alive and about 100 bodies had been recovered.

A new quake struck in Armenia Tuesday. It registered six points on the Soviet scale and struck an area northwest of Kirovakan, one of the cities devastated by last month's tremor, but no injuries or damage were reported.

COLUMN

Dog bumps driver

NORWALK, Connecticut (AP) — A car struck a building after a dog sitting in the front seat bumped the driver out of the vehicle, police said. The eight-month-old, mixed-breed shepherd named Ebony was riding with owner Joseph Vellone when Vellone stopped at a red light and opened his door to spit, police said. The dog pushed Vellone out, and the car rolled through the intersection towards a utility pole and a building, with Vellone giving chase, police said. The car, which came to rest against the building, sustained only minor damage, police said. The building was not damaged. Vellone received a minor abrasion on his left leg, and Ebony was unhurt.

Tabloids turn on duchess of York

LONDON (AP) — Sarah Ferguson was lauded as a breath of fresh air in the stuffy world of royal protocol when she married Prince Andrew two-and-a-half years ago and became the duchess of York. Today she's known in Britain's brassy tabloids as "Her Royal Idleness" and "Duchess Dolt" for what they see as her love of holidays and jet-setting lifestyle. A recent scorecard listing the public engagements of Britain's royal family put Andrew, a royal navy lieutenant, at the bottom, with only 30 last year. Sarah was next, with only 55, less than half those performed by her husband's 88-year-old grandmother, Queen Mother Elizabeth. Buckingham Palace noted that Andrew, as a serving naval officer, was not expected to have other commitments, and that Sarah gave birth to their first child in August. However, a public opinion poll published Sunday in the News of the World indicated 34 per cent of Britons surveyed feel the 29-year-old duchess does not earn the £86,500 (\$153,000) she and her husband receive from the government for royal duties. "Her Royal Idleness," the newspaper's headline blared. "Freelancing Fergie is the most unpopular member of the royal family," its story said.

Mitsubishi turns over new green leaf

TOKYO (R) — The day may come when a Japanese housewife heads for the local supermarket with a grocery list calling for a can of floor wax, a box of rice and a car. A little car named Lettuce, aimed at housewives, went on sale at supermarkets this week. Sold only sold through supermarkets, the Lettuce costs 595,000 yen (\$4,700). The mini-car, made by Mitsubishi, is being offered in red, white or black but not lettuce green. "That's not a popular colour," a spokesman for the Seibu supermarket chain said.

Brewers fighting to bring Iceland beer

REYKJAVIK (R) — Brewery companies from both sides of the Atlantic are clamouring for the right to sell beer in Iceland for the first time in 74 years. Officials said Thursday some 19 companies from the United States, Denmark, the Netherlands, Britain, West Germany and Sweden had sent tenders to Iceland, which in March ends the distinction of being the Europe's only alcohol-free country. Pubs and taverns are springing up all over the island and tables for March 1, which Icelanders are calling "B-day," have been booked up for months in advance. Meanwhile state liquor stores have promised to have more than three litres of alcohol ready for each of the quarter of a million inhabitants.

Fire chief gets beard in the mail

LYNN, Massachusetts (AP) — One man mailed his beard to the fire chief, but actually there was no strong protest from the once-bearded Lynn firefighters forced to face the new year clean-shaven. Fire chief Curtis Numburg said beards had to go because the makers of oxygen masks said hairy jaws prevented a tight seal. "So beards are now out of the question. We were one of the last large fire departments to overlook beards before," said Numburg, who was once bearded himself and these days counts himself with a moustache. About 30 men out of 245 in the department went under the razor. "Some contemplated going to their doctors to get a note saying they couldn't shave because their skin was too tender," Numburg said. The beard in the mail went anonymously. But it's tell-tale colour that Numburg, the Boston Sunday Herald, thinks he recognises.

Soviet editor wins assembly poll battle

MOSCOW (R) — Outspoken magazine editor Vitaly Korotich has been nominated to stand for a revamped Soviet parliament after a stormy four-hour meeting that revealed problems facing Moscow's political reform drive.

Almost 1,000 people packed a trade union hall north of Moscow to vote resoundingly for the liberal editor, rejecting the candidates of a local plant manager and ambulance service official, in a near-chaotic meeting.

An attempt to nominate Korotich at another meeting this month failed after fights broke out between radical supporters of "perestroika" (restructuring) and ultra-conservative Russian nationalists.

But Korotich emerged successful Tuesday night after a bewildering gathering that showed clearly the problems the Soviet Union faces in learning real grassroots democracy after decades of single-candidate rubber-stamp polls.

He won without even attending the meeting. The man who has put his magazine, Ogonyok, at the forefront of a drive to expose the crimes of former dictator Josef Stalin was in the United States.

His case was instead argued by three equally prominent figures — eye surgeon Suyatlov Fedorov, poet Yevgeny Yevushenko and television correspondent Vladimir Tsvetov.

"The economy is important, but if we have accomplished anything, the real success has been in glasnost (openness) and democracy," Yevushenko told the cheering crowd. "Could we have got this far in glasnost and democracy without Ogonyok?"

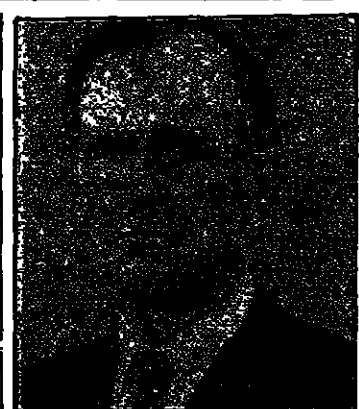
Korotich's name, subject to approval by an electoral commission, will be put on ballot papers in Moscow's Dzerzhinsky district as a candidate for March 26 general elections to a new supreme body, the Congress of People's Deputies.

Half an hour after the evening meeting was due to start, hundreds of people were left outside, crushed against the doors of the building.

Fedorov, a pioneer in microsurgery, was trapped alongside ordinary Muscovites in the crowd, which broke down a fence and smashed a window in the hall before the doors were finally opened.

Once inside, the crowd heckled and shouted down the chairman, who seemed as confused about the wording of the new Soviet electoral law as everyone else in the hall.

After lengthy debate and an interruption from a few members of Pamyat, a Russian nationalist movement, Korotich finally won 787 votes, against 145 for the plant director and 44 for the ambulance official.



George Bush

Bush dinner renewal of U.N. pledge

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's decision to honour United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar with the new president's first official White House dinner was described by a spokesman Tuesday as "an effort to reach out to the U.N. and to the world community."

"The president strongly supports the efforts of the secretary-general to make the United Nations a more effective problem-solving institution," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. He was answering reporters' questions about the invitation to Perez de Cuellar and his wife to the Tuesday night dinner.

The spokesman also said the president would mention U.S. budget problems and priorities to the secretary-general while assuring him that the United States "will reiterate our commitment to paying our fair share," of the world organisation's costs, including U.S. arrears that Jan. 1 reached \$402 million.

"The active role of U.N. in international peacekeeping has been instrumental in the movement toward resolving regional conflicts around the world," Fitzwater said.

Asked if Bush saw an expanded role for the United Nations in U.S. foreign policy and world competition, the spokesman replied that the president is "not trying to point to any different role or any great expansion at this point, but simply to take stock of existing situations, to applaud the peacekeeping effort, which we found very useful, and to confer on progress in various matters."

Possible fight over Dali estate clouds funeral

FIGUERAS, Spain (AP) — Major collectors of Salvador Dali's work, government representatives and associates of the painter during his last reclusive years gathered for his funeral Wednesday in a final tribute before an expected wrangle over his multimillion-dollar estate.

Police said more than 20,000 people had filed past Dali's body as it lay in state in an open casket in his Gualta tower residence since Tuesday morning.

After funeral services in the 14th century Roman Catholic Church, where the painter was baptised 84 years ago, Dali was to be buried in a tomb beneath the floor of the theatre-museum adjacent to Gualta Tower. The theatre-museum, a converted municipal theatre, is where Dali held his first exhibition in 1918, when he was 14 years old.

The painter died Monday of heart failure brought on by respiratory problems and pneumonia. He left an estate estimated at 10 million pesetas (\$87.7 million).

But the estate's real value is difficult to calculate because of the erratic prices of 20th century art and the widespread existence of forgeries. Dali admitted that from 1964 on he began signing blank sheets of paper, resulting in a proliferation of Dali fakes.

The highest price paid for a Dali was \$2.3 million by a Japanese buyer in 1987 for a 1974-76 oil on canvas, "Gala looking at the Mediterranean Sea, which from a distance of 20 metres is transformed into a portrait of Abraham Lincoln (Homage to Rothko)."

Dali's will reportedly divides his estate among the governments of Figueras, Catalonia

and Spain. Under Spanish law, it cannot be read until at least 15 days after his death.

"I'm here because of a 45-year-old friendship, to pay my respects to a dear friend and that's all," said A. Reynolds Morse, owner of the largest private Dali collection outside Spain, housed in his Saint Petersburg, Florida, museum.

The U.S. collector told the AP he did not want to discuss possible legal battles until after the mourning period was over.

Morse dined Tuesday night with Robert Descharnes, a French photographer who has been close to Dali since the early 1980s and who has been the principal merchant for his works.

The Spanish press has implied that Descharnes, the author of what is considered the most complete catalogue of Dali's works, had kept the

painter in seclusion and controlled everything around him. Descharnes, who has called the accusations "absolutely wrong," administers the Dutch-based company Demart, which owns reproduction rights to Dali's works until 2004.

Italian collector Giuseppe Albretoni, who owns more than 500 Dali works, said Wednesday he had prepared legal action against Descharnes, who he said had prevented him from visiting the painter.

Figueras Mayor Mariano Lora said he did not know whether Dali's only living close relative, his sister Ana Maria, was included in the will.

The Barcelona daily La Vanguardia reported Wednesday Ana Maria Dali planned to hold her own private funeral service in her home in nearby Cadaques.

Riot-torn Benin to pay wages

PORTO NOVO, Benin (R) — The West African state of Benin, anxious to check widespread rioting and industrial unrest, has agreed to pay striking government workers their first salaries in three months.

State employees queued at banks after it was announced Tuesday that up to two months of wage arrears would be paid.

The concession by President Mathieu Kerekou's government, which is short of money, followed an order to troops to shoot demonstrators on sight.

The carrot-and-stick approach appeared to restore calm to the streets of the political capital of Porto Novo, where demonstrators chanting anti-government slogans rampaged until late Monday night.

Residents said two members of the security forces were stoned to death while several demonstrators were slightly injured. There were no official casualty figures. Eyewitnesses said several public buildings were ransacked by youths who also looted a local beer depot Monday.

Paramilitary gendarmes set up roadblocks on the main highway leading from the economic capital Cotonou to Porto Novo, 50 kilometres towards the eastern border with Nigeria.

Students from the national uni-



Mathieu Kerekou

versity and some government employees have been on strike for a fortnight to press demands for payment of grants and wages.

Civil servants, who have not been paid since October in some cases, were angered when their trade union movement leader offered recently to forego their claim on three-month salary arrears.

In Cotonou, many government offices such as the finance, education and health ministries were deserted Tuesday for the second day in a row but no disturbances were reported.

Benin, a former French colony, is going through its worst economic crisis since independence in 1960.

Salvadorean candidate: Poll delay impossible

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The presidential candidate of El Salvador's ruling party said Tuesday it would be impossible to postpone elections to meet a peace proposal from leftist rebels who have been waging a nine-year civil war.

Fidel Chavez Mena told a news conference at the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) headquarters that some aspects of the proposal, released formally Tuesday, were positive but that others contradicted the constitution.

Colonel Sigfredo Ochoa Perez, a leading figure in the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) told reporters separately: "There is no doubt it is a trap."

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), whose revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed government has cost some 70,000 lives since it began in 1979, offered backing and recognition for presidential elections as a way out of the conflict.

The FMLN proposal, handed to the government by mediator Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas, sought to delay this year's campaign for president, now set for March 19, and suggested independence day Sept. 15 as an alternate date.

FMLN said it would call a five-day truce for the polls.

In return the rebel group said it would demand the military cease repression of anti-government

groups and agree to stay in their barracks on polling day. It also wanted guarantees of observers to monitor voting.

Chavez Mena said: "The positive thing is the FMLN is agreeing to a level of participation in elections."

But he said the constitution barred some points, notably the postponement of elections, which he said must be held at least 60 days before June 1. "If they can be held in September, why not in March," he added.

Asked if it was better to prolong the elections or the war, he said he did not consider this a peace proposal because it did not mention an end to hostilities.

It would be studied further, he added.

The military, which is likely to have the last word on whether to opt for political settlement or a continued war of attrition, has remained silent.

But former Colonel Ochoa said: "Everybody thinks it's nice to talk about peace but this is (a) trap. Salvadoreans should be alert to these sirens' calls. We are not going to go down on our knees and be trodden on by these Marxist aggressors."

Ochoa's Arena controls the national assembly and would be able to block any constitutional amendments even if the government responds positively to the proposal.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Editor denies quoting ANC official

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The editor of a liberal Afrikaans-language newspaper pleaded innocent Wednesday to a charge of violating security laws by quoting a banned leader of the African National Congress (ANC). Max du Preez, editor of Free Weekly, said the article in question did not directly quote Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party and the only white member of the ANC's National Executive Committee. Instead, du Preez said, the Nov. 11 article conveyed the views of the writer, Mark Swilling, a political scientist who joined other South Africans at a conference in October in West Germany attended by Soviet officials and ANC leaders, including Slovo. Slovo and virtually all other ANC leaders cannot be quoted legally in South Africa.

Paris marks revolution

PARIS (AP) — The capital launched its celebration of the bicentennial of the French revolution Tuesday night with fireworks, trumpets and balloons at the Place de la Concorde, where King Louis XVI was guillotined. Large statues of eight women representing eight major provincial cities placed around the huge square were unveiled for the occasion. The statues were restored over the past year to repair effects of pollution made worse by the thousands of automobiles that jam the Place de la Concorde daily. As horns sounded and floodlights blazed, a brief cascade of fireworks lit up the sky over central Paris. The date chosen to kick off the city's bicentennial celebrations Paris marked the 200th anniversary of King Louis XVI's decision to summon the estates general, representatives of the three estates — nobles, clergy and commoners — whose meeting in Versailles set the revolution in motion.

Dhaka alerts border troops

DHAKA (AP) — Bangladesh placed its border troops on alert after reports that an India-based secessionist group may try to enter the country, an official said Wednesday. The Interior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Free Bangla Revolutionary Council based in the Indian city of Calcutta wants an independent homeland for Bangladesh's Hindus, who account for 10 per cent of the predominantly Muslim country's 110 million people. He said the government had received reports that members of the group may try to march into Bangladesh beginning Thursday, India's republic day. Indian officials in Calcutta said they were not aware of a group by that name.

Multiple sex killer says society needs protection

STARKE, Florida (R) — Just hours before his execution in the electric chair, multiple sex killer Ted Bundy said he was driven to kill women by a taste for violent pornography and that society deserved to be protected from people like him.

"I don't want to die. I'm not going to kid you... (but) I deserve the most extreme penalty society has. Society deserves to be protected from me and people like me," Bundy said in an videotaped interview on the eve of his execution Tuesday.

Bundy also said he was raised in a "normal" family but developed a secret fascina-

tion for violent pornography.

He warned Americans that "there is loose in their towns, in their communities, people like me today whose dangerous impulses are being fuelled day in and day out by violence in the media in its various forms, particularly sexual violence." A tape of the interview was released after his execution, in accordance with Bundy's wishes.

After nearly a decade of imprisonment, Bundy, 42, was put to death at 7:16 a.m. (1216 GMT) Tuesday at Florida state prison for the 1978 kidnap-murder of a 12-year-old schoolgirl. He was pronounced

dead after receiving a one-minute, 2,000-volt surge of electricity.

Bundy's death aroused more emotion than any execution in recent years.

Outside the gates of the prison, a crowd of around 200 people, some wearing "burn Bundy burn" T-shirts, erupted in cheering as a hearse carrying Bundy's body left the prison.

A local disc jockey urged north Florida residents not to use electric appliances near the time of Bundy's execution so that his executioners could have "more juice."

A group of around 30 death

penalty opponents maintained a sombre, candle-light vigil.

The execution marked the final chapter in the story of a manipulator who stalked and killed dozens of women, directed his own legal defence and lived for a decade on death row.

Bundy's death sentence was carried out after several days of tearful confessions in which he detailed a murderous rampage through a half-dozen western states and took responsibility for the unsolved killings of 28 young women.

Hours before, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his final appeal.

"In the past few days, myself and a number of investigators have been talking about unsolved cases, murders that I was involved in," Bundy said in the interview with religious radio broadcaster James Dobson.

Investigators said Bundy's confessions were credible.

But Ann Rule, a former co-worker of Bundy's and author of a book on his murder spree, said she doubted his remorse was genuine. She said Bundy was determined that he be given credit for his crimes that baffled detectives for more than a decade.